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"Freedom of the press ... is not the publisher's right to print. It is the citizen's right to know." - Arthur Hays Sulzberger

Former teacher Duke sentenced to 28 months

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Stacey Duke has been sentenced to 28 months in jail after being convicted of multiple sexual offences against two teenaged boys.

The former educational assistant at Vibank Regional School learned her fate Tuesday at Court of King's Bench in Regina, where Justice Neil Robertson issued his decision.

Duke, 40, was convicted in March on two counts each of sexual exploitation of a young person, making sexually explicit material available to a child, and luring a child.

The Regina Leader-Post reported Tuesday that Robertson sentenced Duke on four of the six counts, staying the two charges for luring. That decision, the paper said, was based on something known as the Kienapple principle which states a person can't be convicted of more than one offence for the same act.

The Leader-Post had previously reported that defence lawyer Jessica Bihun proposed a sentence of 26 months while Crown prosecutor Cheyenne Esmond argued for six years.

Duke was arrested and charged in January 2023 in relation to events police said occurred in October 2022, while Duke was employed at the Vibank school.

Court heard at trial that, at the time of the offences, one victim was a current student in Vibank while the other was a former student of the school.

The Leader-Post's previous reporting added that Duke admitted in court to requesting sex from and sending an explicit video to one of the victims, while denying inappropriate communication with the other.

As previously reported in the Quad Town Forum, Duke was released on conditions following her arrest – including a prohibition on contact with the victims as well as on visiting their places of residence, employment or education – and remained free from custody while awaiting sentencing.

In addition to her prison sentence, the Leader-Post reported, Duke will be placed on a sex offender registry for 20 years.

Following the hearing, Bihun told reporters outside the courthouse that Duke plans to appeal her conviction.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Sports field upgrades

Mayor Simpson and Reeve Trainor discuss a joint project to upgrade the Emerald Ridge Sports Field at Emerald Ridge Elementary School. See story on page 13.

Edenwold rink closed; contents up for auction

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

The Edenwold Memorial Rink is hitting the auction block.

Eight months after the rink board announced the now 74-year-old structure was closed for good, Mayor Dean Josephson says the village is hoping to recoup at least some of the anticipated demolition costs by selling off the arena's contents, quite literally right down to the boards that encircled the building's natural ice skating surface.

The exterior tin, a fire hose, water heaters, a popcorn machine, a deep freeze, 120 chairs, locker room flooring, a scoreboard – it's all available via an online auction that begins closing Thursday at noon.

"We're just proceeding right now with getting rid of whatever we can from it," Josephson said in a phone interview Tuesday morning. "Re-

cover a little bit if possible."

Proceeds from the auction will help cover demolition costs that Josephson estimated ("a rough guesstimate") could come in at \$200,000.

Rink board member Lise Nargang shared the news of the arena's permanent closure in a social media post last October.

As previously reported in the Quad Town Forum, the rink was shuttered for the 2023-24 season after the discovery of a powder post beetle infestation that had caused extensive damage to the facility's support beams.

The closure became permanent after the board found no viable path forward for the building.

Reinforcement of the damaged beams and fumigation in hopes of eradicating the beetles, Poissant wrote, would have cost over \$1 million while a brand new building could cost \$3 million-plus.

"A big feat for our small community," she continued.

Instead, Josephson said, the village now finds itself in conversations with the provincial government's Ministry of Environment to develop a plan on how best to demolish and dispose of the building.

Beyond the auction proceeds, Josephson added that the village set aside funds in this year's budget to help with demolition and he also remains hopeful for government assistance that could help speed the project up.

"There's talk that something might be coming out of the provincial government in the next year – a province-wide program for dilapidated buildings that have to be removed," he said. "But whether this would qualify or not we have no idea."

"At the rate we're going right now it will take a long time to get there."

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Ultra-fast infiNET expanded to 38 more communities

Submitted
Grasslands News

SaskTel announced it recently began launching SaskTel infiNETTM service in the communities of Aberdeen, Arcola, Asquith, Avonlea, Balcarres, Cabri, Churchbridge, Craik, Cupar, Eastend, Elrose, Eston, Gravelbourg, Grenfell, Hepburn, Herbert, Île-à-la-Crosse, Kenosee Lake, Kerrobert, La Loche, Langenburg, Lanigan, Leroy, Manitou Beach, Marshall, McLean, Milestone, Muenster, Nokomis, Pon-teix, Qu'Appelle, Rouleau, Spiritwood, Stoughton,

Strasbourg, Vonda, Wadena, and Wilkie. Delivering ultra-fast internet speeds, SaskTel's infiNET network will revolutionize the way residents in these communities work, learn, and connect for years to come.

“Our government is delivering for Saskatchewan people by directing SaskTel to expand its high-speed broadband network to small towns and villages across our province through the Rural Fibre Initiative,” said Jeremy Harrison, Minister Responsible for SaskTel. “With SaskTel's infiNET service now available in 38 additional

communities, more families and businesses will benefit from faster internet and enhanced connectivity. Whether it's supporting students with online learning, helping businesses grow, or keeping families connected, this investment is another step toward building a stronger, more connected Saskatchewan.”

SaskTel infiNET service delivers internet speeds of up to a Gigabit per second (Gbps), allowing subscribers to browse, stream, and share content faster than ever before. Additionally, SaskTel will be able to increase the capacity of the infiNET network to meet the evolving needs of customers.

“We are thrilled to bring the incredible speed and power of Saskatchewan's largest fibre optic broadband network to these communities,” said Charlene Gavel, SaskTel President and CEO. “For SaskTel, the work we are doing to upgrade both our provincial broadband and wireless networks is more than just infrastructure

improvements; it's about building a brighter and more connected future for our province by ensuring the people of Saskatchewan have access to the tools and technologies they need to grow and thrive in the digital era.”

This latest expansion of the infiNET network is part of SaskTel's Rural Fibre Initiative. The Rural Fibre Initiative is a multi-phase program that will see SaskTel invest \$280 million to bring infiNET service to nearly 200 rural communities by the end of 2027. Once the announced phases of

the Rural Fibre Initiative are complete, SaskTel's infiNET network will reach nearly 85% of all Saskatchewan households and businesses.

Due to their diverse needs and varying complexities, it will take several months before all business customers and multi-dwelling units will be able to convert to infiNET service. Customers are encouraged to use SaskTel's Service Availability Tool to check if they are ready to be upgraded to infiNET service.

Since first launching infiNET service in 2011,

SaskTel has invested nearly \$1 billion to connect thousands of Saskatchewan homes and businesses. The continued expansion of the infiNET network is a direct result of SaskTel's commitment to invest nearly \$466 million of capital throughout Saskatchewan in 2025/26. These investments will help ensure Saskatchewan remains one of the most well-connected provinces in the country.

To learn more about infiNET service, please visit www.sasktel.com/infinet.





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First Nations leaders provide response to King’s Speech

FSIN Vice Chief David Pratt of Muscowpetung First Nation calls on PM to engage chiefs

By **Jeremy Appel**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

First Nations leaders from across Canada gathered in Ottawa to provide a unified response to the May 27 Speech from the Throne delivered by King Charles III, with a statement from some of the leaders highlighting the “profound gap between ceremonial gestures and the reality of unfulfilled Treaty obligations.”

Prime Minister Mark Carney asked the King to deliver this year’s Speech from the Throne, normally delivered by the governor general as the King’s representative in Canada, as a symbol of Canada’s independence from the United States.

A small group of First Nations leaders were invited to the Senate for the King’s speech as dignitaries, including Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Grand Chief Kyra Wilson.

In a joint news release from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Confederation of Treaty 6 First Nations, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), Southern Chiefs’ Organization (SCO) and AMC, Wilson said she finds it “concerning that not all First Nations leadership were

present or included in this historical moment.”

Grand Chief Wilson struck a more optimistic tone at an Ottawa news conference responding to the Speech from the Throne, noting that it’s a positive development that the King mentioned Indigenous rights and reconciliation in his speech.

“That makes me hopeful [for] the renewed relationship that we can have as First Nations people with the Crown,” she said. “Going forward, my hope is that Canada can respect our Treaties, respect who we are as First Nations people and work together, because we are not going away.”

FSIN Vice Chief David Pratt of Muscowpetung First Nation, located 65 km northwest of Regina, called on Carney “to meaningfully engage our chiefs.”

“Don’t just placate us with nice words. That day and age is over,” said Vice Chief Pratt. “Don’t come and try to take resources out of our backyards without sitting first with our Elders and treating us with the respect that we deserve.”

Carney has come under criticism from First Nations leaders, as well as labour, climate and faith groups, for legislation en-

abling projects deemed to be in the “national interest” to receive approval before moving through regulatory and consultation processes.

In the Throne Speech, which is written by the government but delivered by the Crown, King Charles said the government wants to reduce the average timeline for approving major projects to two years from five.

Pratt called it “a shame” that not a single Cabinet minister or representative of the Crown attended the First Nations’ pipe ceremony on Parliament Hill.

He added that it would be a meaningful gesture for the King to return to Canada to visit Treaty First Nations, with the 150th anniversary of Treaty 5 coming up in the fall and Treaty 6 occurring next year.

Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais, who also serves as the chief of Frog Lake First Nation in eastern Alberta, said he was “very disappointed” that the King spoke of reconciliation without any mention of the Treaties.

“I’m grateful to be here to share some words, to encourage each and every one of you, the chiefs,



SCREENSHOT | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Throne Speech by King Charles III
At the request of Prime Minister Mark Carney, King Charles III delivered the Throne Speech in Ottawa on May 27, 2025.

to keep pushing, for the people to get behind the chiefs, the leadership, and not to fight,” said Desjarlais.

Chief Derek Nepinak of the Minegoziibe Anishinabe, located on the western shore of Lake Winnipegosis in Manitoba, was another chief invited to the Senate to hear the Speech from the Throne.

He told First Nations people to “get ready” for the government fast-tracking resource projects.

“This is the time for us to be prepared for what’s next. Some of you can participate, some of us won’t, but let’s protect the water first,” said Chief Nepinak. “That’s the most important thing we have.”

Chief Kelsey Jacko of Cold Lake First Nations in Treaty 6 said he was one of

the First Nations leaders who “travelled across Turtle Island hoping to speak to the King of the nation we entered into Treaty with.”

“I know he is busy, but imagine if you haven’t seen your business partner in 150 years,” said Jacko.

He called on King Charles to collaborate with Prime Minister Carney to establish a Royal Commission on Treaty in the 21st Century to uphold and affirm Treaty rights in the face of changing biodiversity and growing loss of water.

Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi of Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta, in which the oil sands are located, noted the amount of “resource revenue ... coming from our lands each and every day while our

people are suffering.”

“Our people come here in duress today. We don’t come here with peace on our minds,” said Mercredi, the former chief of Beaver First Nation.

He added that it was “unacceptable” that most Treaty First Nations leaders were forced to stand “outside here on the sidewalks” while King Charles spoke in the Senate.

When the King spoke of “barriers and red tape removal, he’s talking about us,” said Mercredi.

National Dene Chief George Mackenzie, who represents five First Nations in the Northwest Territories, contrasted the “modern infrastructure” in downtown Ottawa with the “broken windows” and poverty on First Nations reserves.

- SEE KING’S SPEECH, 4



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Saskatchewan and Ontario remove trade barriers

By **Ryan Kiedrowski**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While premiers met in Saskatoon last week, an agreement between Saskatchewan and Ontario to break down trade barriers was announced. Putting ink to paper, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and Ontario Premier Doug Ford signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the two provinces to work on getting rid of roadblocks between the

two provinces.

“Saskatchewan has long been a leader in reducing trade barriers,” said Trade and Export Minister Warren Kaeding. “This MOU is the progress on internal trade that our country needs to remain competitive and resilient.”

He explained that the two provinces will work together to improve the flow of goods, services, and labour mobility; recognize the importance of strengthening public safety and the integrity and role of our Crown corporations; and advance direct to consumer alcohol sales while working with other willing jurisdictions to do the same.

“We continue to see success in internal trade through our participation in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement with British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba,”



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | LJIR

Agreement signed

Scott Moe and Doug Ford signing a memorandum of understanding between Saskatchewan and Ontario that addresses trade roadblocks between the two provinces.

Kaeding said.

According to statistics from 2021, total interprovincial trade between the two provinces amounted to \$6.4 billion.

“Now is the time to take strong action to strengthen trade across Canada,” noted Moe. “Our province remains committed to removing restrictive barriers that limit the flow of trade. Today’s MOU between Saskatchewan and Ontario is just one of the ways we are unlocking the infinite po-

tential that exists within our industries from coast to coast.”

Trade makes up around 70 per cent of Saskatchewan’s Gross Domestic Product, with the recent signing of the MOU seen as providing more stability when actions south of the border threaten change at a whim.

“With President Trump taking direct aim at Canada’s economy, we need to do everything we can to protect Ontario and Canadian workers by super-charging our own internal trade opportunities,” Ford said. “With both of us coming together today, we are helping Canada unlock up to \$200 billion in gains for our economy, and we are showing everyone how all of us premiers are standing up for Canada like never before. Together, we are building a more competitive, more resilient and more self-reliant economy.”

King’s Speech gets response

- continued from page 3

“Our young people should be strong in their culture, language, can survive on the land and be proud of it, [and] at the same time, be the best they can be in education,” said Chief Mackenzie. “We need to be given that opportunity.”

Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro of Mikisew Cree First Nation in Treaty 8 noted that there are few things all Treaty First Nations leaders can agree on.

“Among the chiefs, we all have different agendas, but one thing we have in common is the Treaty, and we must fight for that for the future generations to come,” he said.

He said the government’s promise to reduce project approval timelines by 60 per cent is “very alarming” for members of his community, given the impact of tar sands mining on their health.

Addressing the federal government, Dene Tha’ First Nation Chief Wilfred Hooka-Nooza emphasized the “shared journey” of reconciliation.

“It requires more than promises. It requires action. It requires you to listen to our stories, understand our struggles and work with us to address the wrongs of the past and present,” he said.

“It requires you to honour the Treaties, not as historical documents but as living agreements that are vital to our collective future.”

To his fellow First Nations leaders, Hooka-Nooza offered a message of hope, “for it is hope that sustains us and guides us towards the future generation.”



Warren Kaeding

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Province addressing issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Government of Saskatchewan is honouring its ongoing commitment to respond to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was released on June 3, 2019. In the six years since the Report was released, the province has made significant progress in developing responses to and raising awareness about the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

“Our government is committed to addressing the critical issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and creating safe communities for all Saskatchewan residents,” Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. said. “This includes targeted investments in programs and services to prevent and respond to missing persons and gender-based violence, and collaborating with Indigenous and community partners to build a future free from exploitation and abuse.”

Earlier this spring, Saskatchewan commemorated Missing Persons Week and Red Dress Day to honour those who have gone missing and show support for their families and loved ones.

In November of 2022, Saskatchewan endorsed the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence. The province was among the first in Canada to sign on to the federal National Action Plan to End Gender-Based violence (NAP), which provides \$20.3 million over four years to enhance programs and services that address interpersonal violence and abuse.

“Indigenous women and girls embody strength, resilience and wisdom, yet they are disproportionately impacted by violence and abuse,” Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Alana Ross said. “Saskatchewan remains committed to preventing and ending this violence by expanding education and awareness, increasing Indigenous-led initiatives, and enhancing supports for survivors, fami-

lies and communities.”

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ (MMIWG+) Community Response Fund continues to provide \$800,000 to Indigenous community-based projects that promote and enhance prevention and safety, with half of the funding provided by Women and Gender Equality Canada. Since 2022-23, 59 projects have received up to \$40,000 in funding from the fund.

“The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to working alongside Indigenous communities to prevent gender-based violence and to support its victims,” Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis, and Northern Affairs Eric Schmalz said. “From the very beginning, Indigenous knowledge, tradition and lived experience have guided the development and administration of the MMIWG+ Community Response Fund. The projects supported through the fund are often created and led by Indigenous communities, organizations and grassroots initiatives. Together, we work to support safety, healing and resilience across Saskatchewan.”

In addition, the Family Information Liaison Unit helps families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls navigate government processes to ensure that they can access support and information about their loved ones. Currently, the Unit supports over 170 families across the province.

The province’s Face the Issue campaign, designed to raise awareness and start conversations about the reality of interpersonal violence, continues to run across social media platforms. In 2024-25, the Government of Saskatchewan released a new public awareness campaign that focused on raising awareness of human trafficking in the province. Posters were placed in public sites across the province to connect with individuals who are most at risk of being trafficked.

Government also collaborates with and provides funding to 211 Saskatchewan to support its role as a 24/7 service referral platform for situations involving interpersonal violence and abuse, including sexual violence and human trafficking.

High school Honour Walk held

Six First Nations High Schools

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Graduate students from six First Nation high schools took part in the fourth annual Treaty Four Honour Walk held last Friday, June 6 in Fort Qu’Appelle.

The march was described as a “celebration of education,” by Peepeekisis elder Patricia Deiter, who led the prayer when the two kilometre walk through town ended at the governance centre.

“I want you to remember the treaty promises that were made to you,” she told the grads from Balcarres Community School, Cowesses, Peepeekisis Cree Nation, Pasqua First Nation, Cote and Fishing Lake First Nations. “Part of the treaty promise was that we would keep

our culture. It was a promise our old people wanted for you. Get more and more education to become self-sufficient.”

Vera Tourangeau, who organized the first Honour Walk, said the idea has grown and now takes place in a different location each year. Among those in the walk this year was Neddy Narjowe, an observer from Kenya who is with International Child Care University which offers courses for international exchange students.

“Different walks have different meanings,” she said. “I loved it. It was a voice for the community.”

ICCU director Paula Moriarity told Grasslands News the organization is working with the First Nations to send students from Treaty Four territory to Ethiopia.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Honour March
Brandon Starr carries the smudge pot at the head of the Honour March through Fort Qu’Appelle on Friday, June 6.

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OPINION

“For the cause that needs assistance;
for the wrong that needs resistance;
the future in the distance and
the good that we can do.”

Prime Minister Carney must listen to The West

By Kris Sims
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

If Prime Minister Mark Carney doesn’t listen to the West, it’s going to cost Canada.

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe are demanding that Ottawa stop stomping on their provinces’ natural resource production.

Smith is telling Carney to scrap the no more pipelines law, Bill C-69, lift the cap on Alberta’s energy and cancel the looming ban on the sale of new gasoline and diesel vehicles.

Moe is stepping in sync with Smith, listing Saskatchewan’s demands in a letter, calling for changes to the no more pipelines law, saying, “there are a few policies that are going to have to go.”

Moe is also taking aim at the industrial carbon tax saying “the tax can’t be charged on the electricity for Saskatchewan families.”

The new prime minister says he’s listening.

“I intend to govern for all Canadians,” said Carney in his election victory speech.

If that’s true, Carney must heed the demands of Smith and Moe, because Ottawa’s anti-West policies are damaging the economy and costing taxpayers a truckload of money.

How much?

Ottawa’s cap on oil and gas emissions – which creates a cap on production - will cost the Canadian economy about \$20.5 billion and slash 40,000 jobs by 2032, according to the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

Canada has also seen nearly \$670 bil-



lion in natural resources projects suspended or cancelled, since 2015.

To put that kind of money into perspective: \$670 billion would pay for the salaries of hundreds of thousands of paramedics and police officers, for a decade.

That’s the equivalent to the value of more than one million houses in Alberta or almost two million homes in Saskatchewan.

That kind of money is worth the entire federal income tax bills for the populations of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for about 10 years.

That’s just the lost money from natural

resources.

Carney’s looming ban on the sale of new gasoline and diesel vehicles also carries a huge price tag.

Canada’s vehicle transition could cost up to \$300 billion by 2040 to expand the electrical grid, according to a report for Natural Resources Canada.

If Carney is serious about boosting the economy and governing for all Canadians, getting the government out of the way of natural resource projects and scrapping the expensive plan to stop people from buying new gas and diesel vehicles is a good first step.

The West has been firmly asking for Ottawa to mind its own business for years.

Cancelling the industrial carbon tax is another way for Carney to show that he’s serious about growing the economy and governing for all Canadians.

On the same day Carney scrapped the consumer carbon tax, the Saskatchewan government dropped its industrial carbon tax down to zero.

“By eliminating industrial carbon costs which are often passed directly on to consumers – the province is acting to protect affordability and economic competitiveness,” said the Saskatchewan government’s news release.

Alberta’s industrial carbon tax is now frozen. Increasing the tax above its current rate would make Alberta “exceptionally uncompetitive,” according to Alberta Environment Minister Rebecca Schulz.

Business groups in both provinces lauded each premier, saying it would make their industries more competitive and help bring down costs.

When Ottawa forces businesses like fuel refineries or fertilizer plants to pay the carbon tax, they pass on those costs on to taxpayers when they heat their homes, fill up their cars and buy groceries.

If companies are forced to cut production or leave the country because of the industrial carbon tax and policies like the energy cap, it’s regular Albertans and Saskatchewanians who are hurt the most through job losses.

If Carney intends to govern for all Canadians he needs to listen to Smith and Moe and scrap these policies that are set to cost taxpayers billions and slash tens of thousands of jobs.

Runaway debt could force Saskatchewan tax hikes

By Gage Haubrich
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

While Ontario and Quebec have long been mired in debt, Saskatchewan is catching up at a breakneck pace. That’s not a sign of progress—it’s a flashing red warning sign.

Government debt isn’t just a number on a spreadsheet. It has real consequences. It means more money spent on interest payments instead of services people rely on, like health care and education. It limits the government’s flexibility in times of crisis. And it increases the likelihood that taxes will go up in the future. Saskatchewan used to be in better fiscal shape than most provinces. That advantage is fast disappearing.

Three premiers remain from those elected in 2018: Quebec’s François Legault, Ontario’s Doug Ford and Saskatchewan’s Scott Moe. Since then, Legault has increased Quebec’s debt by about 30 per cent, Ford has added 36 per cent to Ontario’s, and Moe has increased Saskatchewan’s by a staggering 113 per cent.

That kind of rapid growth in debt is showing up across the board. Since 2018, per-person debt in Saskatchewan has jumped 96 per cent. In contrast, it rose by only 20 per cent in Ontario and 19 per cent in Que-

bec. The cost of carrying that debt is also climbing steeply. Interest payments per person have risen 96 per cent in Saskatchewan, while Ontario and Quebec have seen far more modest increases of 15 and two per cent, respectively. Saskatchewan may still owe less per person—about \$10,000 less than Ontario and Quebec—but the province is closing the gap at an alarming pace.

Since Moe took office, his government has added \$12.4 billion to the provincial debt. Of that, \$6.6 billion was added during the height of the pandemic, when most governments were spending heavily to respond to the crisis. But that still leaves \$5.8 billion added to the debt before and after the pandemic period—growth that can’t be explained away by COVID-19 alone.

In 2018, Saskatchewan’s total debt stood at about \$11 billion, or \$9,561 per person. Now, it’s on track to hit \$23.5 billion and \$18,753 per person. That’s nearly double in just a few years. It’s a trend that should worry not only economists but every Saskatchewan taxpayer.

This rising debt puts the province’s recent tax relief efforts at risk. To Moe’s credit, Saskatchewan has avoided major across-the-board tax hikes. The government has halved the small business tax rate and raised the basic personal amount—the income you can earn before paying taxes—by \$500. It plans to keep increasing that threshold over the next four years. If fully im-

plemented, about 54,000 residents will no longer pay provincial income tax. These are meaningful improvements for working families and small businesses.

But those gains will be short-lived if spending continues to outpace revenue. Interest payments are consuming more of the provincial budget every year. As that continues, the government will be forced to find new revenue, and the first place it’s likely to look is taxpayers’ wallets. If debt doesn’t come down, tax hikes are only a matter of time.

This year alone, Saskatchewan taxpayers will pay \$878.4 million just to cover interest on the debt. That’s money that won’t go to classrooms, hospitals, or public safety. To put it in perspective, that amount could pay the annual salaries of nearly 8,800 new nurses. It’s a massive opportunity cost.

Moe can take some credit for maintaining a lower overall debt burden than Ontario and Quebec. But he should be far more concerned about the trajectory his government is on. The pace of Saskatchewan’s debt growth is unsustainable, and the mounting interest payments are a warning of what’s to come.

If the government doesn’t correct course soon, the cost of inaction will fall squarely on the shoulders of Saskatchewan taxpayers. A failure to act now will only make the solutions more painful down the road.

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New legislation aims to strengthen Canada's borders

By Shaynee Modien
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As of June 3, 2025, the Canadian government is seeking to introduce new legislation to implement additional border security measures. Bill C-2, also known as the “Strong Borders Act,” was brought forward at a news conference on Parliament Hill. Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree was present to discuss the measures outlined in the bill. The federal government’s new legislation aims to strengthen border security.

The proposed bill has three main components: securing the border, fighting organized crime and illegal fentanyl, and disrupting illicit financing.

When approached for comment on June 3, Luke Reimer, Spokesperson for the Canada Border Services Agency, Government of Canada, redirected the inquiry to a standard response on the Government of Canada’s website, which posted information on strengthening border security, along with an accompanying background on the Strong Borders Act.

Some of the recent changes the federal government would like to bring into legislation include:

- Recruiting 1,000 more RCMP personnel to tackle drug and human trafficking, foreign interference, cybercrime, and organized criminal gangs.
 - Hiring over 1,000 additional CBSA personnel, including border services officers, intelligence analysts, and specialized chemists, and training up to 9 new detector dog teams.
 - The government also proposes to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act to:
 - Remove barriers that prevent police from searching mail, where authorized to do so in accordance with an Act of Parliament, to carry out a criminal investigation.
 - Expand Canada Post inspection authority to open mail.
- In December 2024, the government implemented changes to the



Stronger borders

The Canadian government is looking to introduce the “Strong Borders Act” in an effort to secure the border, fight organized crime and illegal fentanyl and disrupt illicit financing.

border plan, including:

- Detecting and disrupting the fentanyl trade: The Government of Canada will increase support to law enforcement agencies in detecting, intercepting, and addressing fentanyl and precursor chemicals by adding artificial intelligence and imaging tools that will help detect illegal drugs before they enter Canada. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will train and deploy new canine teams to intercept illegal drugs. The agency currently has over 80 detector dog teams located at various ports of entry across Canada. CBSA will also deploy new chemical detection tools at high-risk ports of entry.
- Introducing significant new tools for law enforcement: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) will deploy a new Aerial Intelligence Task Force comprised of helicopters, drones, and mobile surveillance towers. Counter-drone technology will support RCMP officers and provide 24/7 surveillance

between ports of entry.

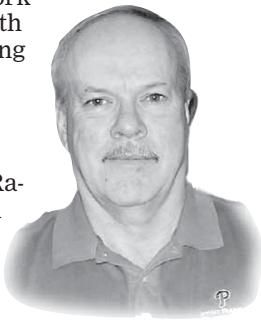
- Increasing information sharing: The Government of Canada will build on information and intelligence sharing between federal, provincial, territorial authorities, the U.S., and other international partners. Enhanced information sharing will allow authorities to identify, monitor, and collaborate with partners to intercept high-risk individuals attempting to travel along with goods of interest attempting to move between countries.

The Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) and its Additional Protocol remain in place. People must claim asylum in the first country they enter – be it Canada or the U.S. This agreement mitigates against unlawful entry into either country and maintains border integrity for both countries. Claimants that do not meet an exception or exemption to the STCA will be returned to the first safe country they entered, either Canada or the U.S.

Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

According to the New York Times, members of the South African delegation, including golfer Ernie Els, “appeared flabbergasted as the video played.” President **Trump ambushed the delegation** including President Cyril Ramaphosa when they visited the White House. Sadly, much of Trump’s info was untrue or sensationalized. Trump “appeared to calm down” after white South African billionaire Johann Rupert said “too many” people were being killed but “it’s not only white farmers” and that US technology could help South Africa deal with the issue. South Africa has a high murder rate, but statistics show that white South Africans are not being killed at a higher rate than others. It was definitely reminiscent of the Oval Office meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky in February, but unlike the Ukrainian leader, Ramaphosa “did not lose his composure.” Ramaphosa repeatedly tried to steer the conversation toward trade. At one point, he quipped, “I’m sorry I don’t have a plane to give you.” Trump replied, “I wish you did, I’d take it.”



It appears to be a rarity in China, namely a fatal gun attack. Police in Wuhan say one person was killed and two others injured in an assault at an outdoor restaurant. **Shootings are extremely rare in China**, which has strict gun laws. Stabbings are more common methods of public violence. In fact, the government often highlights violent gun incidents abroad to suggest the nation is safer than other countries.

In Bonnyville, AB, a 61-year-old man has been charged after he stole an excavator and **smashed several police cruisers** in what RCMP are calling a targeted attack on police. David Merko, 61, faces numerous charges after using the trackhoe to dump several boulders in front of the prisoner bay before damaging five parked police vehicles. The suspect fled on foot but officers used a police dog to track him down. The man was known to police since there was an active investigation regarding a previous assault. All five police vehicles were written off and a complete loss. Merko is charged with six counts of mischief over \$5,000, two counts of obstruction of a peace officer, dangerous driving, break and enter, theft over \$5,000, possession of stolen property over \$5,000 and uttering threats. In recent years, RCMP have seen an increase in violence towards police. Every day in 2023 there was an average 2.3 cases of violence against Alberta RCMP.

In one of my recent columns, there was a reference to a woman **stabbed by another with an EpiPen** because “I’m allergic to drunks.” A doctor friend was reminded of a somewhat similar incident. A medical resident was being tested in an OSCE (acronym for simulated role play test). The fake patient was having anaphylaxis and the examiner told the testee to “just do what you would normally do,” which resulted in the “doctor” stabbing the patient with the very real EpiPen. The “fake” patient became a real patient after the injection of epinephrine caused a dangerous increase in heart rate and blood pressure. He or she were taken to hospital but ended up being fine. “Not sure what happened to the examiner.”

“But the **GPS told me to go this way ...**” Someone in a control tower at O’Hare airport in Chicago spotted a moving object in a danger zone, but all ended well—and no planes were involved. This all happened at ground level, and the culprit turned out to be a very lost DoorDash driver. Police say the delivery person “accidentally drove into an unauthorized secured area within O’Hare Airport.” He eventually went for miles in restricted areas at the airport, and indeed may have crossed runways, before being stopped. Police say no charges are being filed because it was indeed accidental. “No word on whether the food eventually made it to the right spot.”

Several Republican lawmakers also expressed their distaste about a military parade. “Confidence is silent, and insecurity is loud,” the Louisiana senator John Kennedy said. “America is the most powerful country in all of human history ... and we don’t need to show it off. We’re not North Korea. We’re not Russia, we’re not China,” he continued, “and I don’t wanna be.”

A guard at Pococi prison in Costa Rica spotted a cat walking along the security fence. He captured it and brought it inside, where staff **cut off packets taped to its torso**, which they said contained 235.65 g (about 8.3 oz) of marijuana, and 67.76 g (about 2.4 oz) of crack cocaine paste. “Dumb criminal,” laughed Mike Straw, “one who thinks a cat will do what you want it to do.”

“The cat owns the house. That’s why the word ‘homeowner’ has meow in it.”
Until next time...

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United Church in Canada turns 100-years-old

Anniversary service blends today and yesterday

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

It was a chance to share memories, celebrate history and enjoy time spent with friends and neighbors, as the Kipling United Church celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the United Church in Canada last Sunday.

Mona Lynn Stender says that the “very celebratory service” drew visitors who had once lived in Kipling and were delighted to share their memories of the church that they used to attend.

“We had ten visitors, former residents of Kipling and area who now live in Regina, Saskatoon and Weyburn attending the service. Some of them were on their way to Lansdowne Memorial Gardens to attend the annual Memorial Service being held there that afternoon but decided to spend some time with us in Kipling first. And a couple of those visitors - Nancy Toppings and Sharon Weins – shared some of their memories of what the Kipling United Church had meant to them and their families over the years. So, it was really special to have them joining us, and hearing those fond recollections, it really added a lot to the service.”

She notes that former ministers at the Kipling church also took the opportunity to send greetings to the congregation.

“Elizabeth Goodson, former minister at Kipling (2000-2008) sent her greetings and shared some memories of what a huge adjustment it was to come from Ontario to the prairies. She talked about arriving a day early, while we were still busy cleaning the manse for her, and

how I’d whisked her away to the church while the others finished scrubbing. And she talked about how getting directions on the prairies, which included information such as ‘It’s just past the tree on the corner’ or ‘It’s just past the place where that old barn used to be’ was quite different from what she was accustomed to.

Rev. Janet Sigurdson (2008-2016) also sent her regards, since she couldn’t be with us that day.”

Stende goes on to observe that the 100th Anniversary Celebration allowed all who attended to bring the past and present together and create some new memories.

“It was so nice to have the members of the Bekevar Congregation joining us for this. Not only do we have our roots in the Presbyterian Church, but our two congregations now share a church home. So, it was very fitting that they celebrated with us, with Eunice Daku from the Bekevar congregation reading one of the scriptures while Marj Bates from the United Church read the other.

“During the service, Deb Nordahl gave a message entitled ‘Our Heritage’ where she talked about how the United Church came to be. Then I gave my message entitled ‘How we came to be’ which was the history of the United Church in Kipling.

“We also had communion, presided over by Wayne Lewis, and communion was served in the cups from Lansdowne, Windthorst and Kipling. So, people could take communion from the cup that belonged to whichever church they wished. All of the music played during the service was



Their Sunday best

These members of the Kipling United Church congregation came out for the special service celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada in apparel that would have been entirely appropriate in 1925. Pictured left to right, are, Mavis Armstrong, Deb Nordal, Mona Lynn Stender, Ken Nordal (seated), Marj Bates, Gloria Ovans, Sharon Baker and Lee Stender.

played at the inaugural service and the scripture readings were identical to those read in 1925. Several members of the congregation wore period costumes. Then following the service, there was a huge meal. Gloria Ovans asked the blessing over the meal in place of her husband Terry, who is our eldest member of the congregation. Everyone there then spent some time reminiscing. So, the whole event really was a wonderful blend of yesterday and today!”

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“Learn to do by Doing”

Building Bureaucracy: Part Five

Building bureaucracy - Interpretation, inconsistency and empty lots

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

A minimum standard is meant to be something that provides assurance and certainty.

It defines the boundaries, ensuring that we can have confidence in the things those standards are applied to.

But what happens if a standard is applied differently from one situation to the next?

Or what happens if those tasked with ensuring a standard is met have differing interpretations of it?

In Saskatchewan, *The Construction Codes Act (CC Act) and Regulations* which came into force on Jan. 1, 2022 made the 2020 versions of the National Building Code, the National Energy Code for Buildings and the National Plumbing Code the construction standards for the province.

Yet, as Bob Baker, owner of Professional Building Inspections (PBI), a private company which is contracted to provide Building Inspection Services by approximately 200 municipalities in the province notes, that same legislation also permits a municipality to enact a Building Bylaw which supersedes the requirements of *The Construction Codes Act*.

“A municipality can’t write a bylaw saying that it won’t require Building Permits. They must do at minimum - what is in the Construction Codes Act. But a municipality can decide to have a building bylaw that exceeds the requirements in the legislation.”

For example, while farm buildings remain exempt from having to comply with construction standards under current provincial legislation, a Rural Municipality can write a building bylaw that requires Building Permits for farm buildings. Bill Hawkins (Saskatchewan Government Relations – Building & Technical Standards) says that allowing municipalities to exceed the requirements of legislation in this way provides the local government with greater independence.

“Municipalities are given some latitude in determining whether the standard should apply to farm buildings, because the province intends municipalities to have some autonomy in making some decision locally.”

This allowance for autonomy can lead to inconsistency in how the provincial standard is applied, as a farmer in one municipality might be required to obtain a Building Permit in order to construct a farm building (and pay all of the necessary costs associated with that) while another farmer living only a few miles away may find the farm building he is constructing remains exempt, because he happens to live in a different municipality.

That inconsistency does not exist only in rural areas.

Stu Neibergall is the President and CEO of the Regina & Region Homebuilders Association, which advocates on behalf of the Residential Construc-

tion Industry.

Neibergall says that even within the area that includes the City of Regina and surrounding Bedroom Communities (such as Pilot Butte and White City) that same inconsistency exists between municipalities.

“One of the things that we are cognizant of is when you have different regulations in different jurisdictions, because you can have one set of regulations here in the City of Regina and different standards in a community like Pilot Butte or White City, even though they are really all part of the same market. And even in situations where the code is exactly the same, you can have municipalities interpreting that code differently. So, you will find that you can do something in one jurisdiction that you can’t do in another, even though both municipalities would say they are following the same point in the code. So, even if they aren’t adding to it, if each municipality is interpreting the same code differently, then that can be very problematic for our builders.”

Shannon Friesen is President and CEO of the Construction Association of Saskatchewan, which advocates on behalf of the Commercial Construction Industry.

Friesen says that she has heard similar feedback about inconsistencies between municipalities from some of the 800 construction companies that the association represents.

“Every municipality is different, and I do hear from our members that problems come up because they were not aware of the different bylaws from one municipality to the next, even though municipalities will insist that they notified the builders.”

She notes however, that even within the same municipality, inconsistency because each individual Building Inspector may interpret the code differently.

“There are a lot of complicated rules and depending on who the Building Inspector is that comes out to the project, you may get a different interpretation of the code. That’s frustrating for builders, and we’re getting a lot of anecdotal feedback from our members about examples of inconsistent application of code.”

Friesen points out that this inconsistent interpretation and application of code translates into increased costs.

“If you build one building and are building exactly the same building again in the same municipality – what passed inspection in the first building should pass inspection in the second - because the two buildings are cookie-cutters. But if you have a different Building Inspector who comes out to the second building, who has a different interpretation of code and applies it differently, they may identify a problem that holds up the process. That can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Neibergall says that the problem of code being interpreted differently between inspectors impacts the residential construction industry as well and

says that the additional costs this generates are eventually passed along to the home buyer.

“Code can be interpreted differently not only between municipalities but also between Building Inspectors. This causes delays and inefficiencies in the Building System, and anything that causes inefficiencies and delays in the Building System will translate into added cost for the home buyer.

“Delays are very costly. But it’s not just the cost of delays that are ultimately passed on to the home buyer. The complexity of getting something wrong, quite frankly, can also become cost prohibitive. It’s not that we should be accepting anything below standard. But if as a builder, your understanding of the code means you build a house a certain way, and that house passes inspection, then you are going to use the very same techniques to build the next house. But this time, another Building Inspector might interpret the code differently and determine the house is deficient. So, now you have to change something or rebuild something, and that is a direct cost that is generated purely by different interpretations of code, which will be passed on ultimately to the home buyer.”

Neibergall adds that there is no way for a builder to question or appeal a Building Official’s interpretation of the code.

“There is really no mechanism to appeal a Building Inspector’s decision. And even if such a mechanism did exist, it’s likely that the time cost of the delay that would result would be so great, that it is easier and cheaper to simply capitulate.”

And while the cost will be passed down to the home buyer, it is the builder and developer that must deal with those costs first, and Neibergall says that the costs that these inconsistencies generate can lead to projects being shelved.

“The inconsistency involving the application and interpretation of these standards, which we’ve allowed in the province, is actually the problem on a whole bunch of fronts. These are provincial regulations and we would ultimately be better off if they were interpreted and applied consistently. Inconsistency results in a different competitive environment that is not driven by the marketplace but driven by government regulations. And what government at all levels doesn’t always understand is that at the end of the day, all of these regulations and all of the intentions that they want to achieve have to pencil out on the Pro Forma. If it doesn’t, the building doesn’t get built, it’s just that simple.”

Over the past few weeks, we’ve looked at the realities which the provincial government’s *Construction Codes Act & Regulations* creates for those wanting to undertake any sort of building project – large or small – residential or commercial – in an urban center or on a farm. We’ve also looked at some of the concerns over cost and issues like inconsistent interpretation and application of what is meant to be a universal minimum standard. Next week, we’ll conclude with a look at some ways that concerns might be addressed, so that the largest edifice that we see being built in our province – is not a building bureaucracy.

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Friends and Neighbours: Sarah Pacio and Alan Hustak

Grasslands journalists talk about their role

By Allison Kydd
Grasslands News

These are unsettled times; there's not a lot of good news; and journalists, often the bearers of bad news through no fault of their own, become the scapegoats. It seems a good time, therefore, to ask them to speak for themselves.

Alan Hustak likes to call himself a "reporter" rather than a "journalist"; nonetheless, his experience in the world of newspaper, radio and television journalism is extensive. Raised primarily in Fort Qu'Appelle, he went to high school in Regina and got his start around 1960 by writing for *Campion News*. After that, he registered for a general arts degree at Georgetown University (a private Jesuit university in Washington, D.C.). Though he didn't complete the degree, it was a formative experience.

"I was taught by Jesuits to have a healthy skepticism for authority," he says.

He also describes his professors challenging him to argue against his own assumptions. This taught him to look at other points of view, which would be useful for him throughout his multi-faceted journalistic career. Not only has his byline appeared in every major newspaper in Canada since then, but he has worked for both radio and television stations. His main outlet these days is the *Fort Qu'Appelle Times*, part of the Grasslands News Group. Not that he's complaining. In fact, he says the group – though a small operation – is doing a "magnificent job" putting out all these papers every week.

Though her journalistic experience isn't as extensive as Hustak's, Sarah Pacio, who covers Grenfell, Broadview, Wolseley, Indian Head and a couple of smaller communities, plus four First Nations, also believes in hard work. She produces roughly ten articles a week. With this kind of output, it's difficult to believe she came to her position somewhat by accident.

"Journalism was not on the radar" she says, though she had "always enjoyed writing and research." Coming from Maine, she earned her bachelor's degree in theology in Toronto as well as a certificate to teach E.S.L. classes. After she met her husband, Ian, they moved to Saskatchewan to find a teaching position for him and settled first in Grenfell and then in Indian Head. In 2016, she became the office administrator for the *Grenfell Sun*.

Before long, she was also helping out by writing occasional articles. Within a year, the newspaper office closed and the local reporter went on maternity leave. At the same time, Grasslands News Group was growing, and publisher Chris Ashfield offered Pacio the position of reporter for Grenfell and Broadview. When the group brought *Indian Head-Wolseley News* under its umbrella, she was in the ideal position to serve Indian Head and Wolseley as well.

Hustak's work trajectory was similar in some ways, as many of his opportunities came to him through chance if not "pure luck." For instance, he went to Montreal to visit Expo '67, toured the Jamaica pavilion and happened to get into a conversation with the news director for CBC radio. His new friend invited him to the studio for a test, which resulted in his being hired as a reporter.

This put him at the centre of things, especially obvious during the October Crisis of 1970. In 1972, he was picked up by CTV's Edmonton Bureau. One of his biggest adventures with CTV was an around-the-world trip with Peter Lougheed, sending exclusive copy back both to the station and to Ted Byfield, publisher of the weekly newsmagazine *Alberta Report*.

In those days, many saw Lougheed as the next Prime Minister of Canada, so anything he did was newsworthy. Hustak used this material again in *Peter Lougheed: A Biography* published by



Grasslands News reporters Alan Hustak, left, who covers the Fort Qu'Appelle area and Sarah Pacio, right, who covers the Grenfell, Broadview, Wolseley, Indian Head areas.

McClelland & Stewart in 1979.

Eventually, however, Hustak was feeling the pressure of the job and the image. Though CTV paid well, he also found himself "on the road most of the time."

Next, he worked for *Alberta Report*. In fact, he praises Byfield for his "enormous skill and standards of journalism," though he also acknowledges Byfield's well-known right-wing bias.

Family brought Hustak back to Saskatchewan periodically, but eventually he returned to Montreal and found a job with the *Montreal Gazette*, where he worked for 25 years. During that time, he also published several other books – he has written more than 12 in all. One of his recent publications is *Magnetic North: The Unauthorised Biography of Justin Trudeau, Canada's Selfie PM* (2017).

After the death of his mother – his father had died earlier – Hustak spent a number of years dividing his time between Montreal and Saskatchewan. He described himself as "Montreal-based" and intended to sell his house in Fort Qu'Appelle, but somehow it didn't happen. When George Brown and Chris Ashfield of Grasslands asked if he'd like to work for them, he said "provided it doesn't become a job." Now he seems to have settled here permanently, if somewhat by default. And thanks to Grasslands, he's still working and writing, whether or not he calls it a job.

Though still popular at the time Hustak's book was written, Justin Trudeau later became a controversial subject. Controversy is something every reporter must deal with at times, and Hustak admits he has sometimes "crossed swords" with colleagues and friends. Pacio has a somewhat different strategy.

"I sometimes just try to avoid controversial subjects," she says. "I want to be fair, and it isn't always possible to [find] the other side [of the story]."

She also values discretion. "You don't have to include every detail," she says.

The same is true when dealing with particularly tragic events. Pacio says "I have a lot of compassion for the victims, so I try to focus on the facts I'm given."

Personalities also affect strategies. After being "in the business" so long, Hustak says he has developed a tough skin, which helps him deflect insults. For instance, there was the time he asked former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to comment on turning fifty, and Trudeau swore at him. Sometimes outspoken himself, Hustak forgave him.

"I've taken swipes at both The Saskatchewan Party and the NDP," he says. At the same time, when it comes to politics, he has faith in people's good sense.

"Canadians are not stupid," he says. "They elect leaders who reflect them."

If his ability to attack political parties indiscriminately doesn't already make it clear, Hustak states it directly. "I am not a partisan," he says. "I don't support any political party, but I am engaged by the game of politics."

He also accepts that "after having worked with big city newspapers, working for a small town newspaper is one of the toughest things to do."

Both Pacio and Hustak comment on the role and responsibilities of journalists.

"I've always been curious," says Hustak. "A reporter's job is to ask questions – though people don't have to answer – and to keep people informed."

Pacio adds another perspective: "A journalist should always be willing to learn," she says. "After all, one doesn't have to be an expert to ask questions, though research ahead of time can help one find the right ones."

She also stresses the importance of checking facts and making sure sources are reliable.

"I learned this by experience while at university," she says. On one occasion she had relied too much on a single source that turned out to be unreliable. The professor made her rewrite the whole essay.

"If not sure, leave it out," she adds.

Pacio also says it's important to keep stories focused.

"You can't follow every rabbit hole," she says. "And again discretion is really important. Not everything you hear has to be included in the story."

She tries to be kind and fair as well.

Pacio identifies things she enjoys about the job, such as "the variety and the opportunity to learn new things – things I wouldn't have been aware of – for instance, how municipal government works, seeing infrastructure projects."

She also enjoys "meeting athletes, musicians, government leaders, etc."

For his part, Hustak says, "I wouldn't do it if it wasn't fun, and I'm having fun on a number of levels..."

Hustak has received various awards, including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012 for "chronicling the lives of deserving Canadians and their institutions" and the Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022. However, what he describes as his "proudest moment" happened in the Saskatchewan Legislature. Former MLA Don McMorris invited him to lunch and then to the speaker's gallery. To Hustak's surprise and gratification, both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition got up to congratulate him for 60 years of journalism.

Hustak admits he was deeply moved.

"To be recognized in the Legislature by both sides of the house... means I'm

doing my job," he says.

Both Hustak and Pacio feel they have a lot of control over what they write.

"Chris gives a pretty free rein," says Hustak.

Pacio agrees: "Yes. Chris gives a lot of freedom." There are still criteria, however. "The story needs to be of local interest," she says. "The big guys can cover the national stories. It should also be of broad public interest."

Pacio sometimes picks stories because of special interest or knowledge. She also asks herself if she has time to research and write them properly.

Not everything is fun. Sometimes being a journalist is quite challenging.

"It's difficult knowing what to include," says Pacio. "You can't get to everything. If unable to attend or to do the research, I sometimes have to give stories a miss."

Regarding the importance of balanced reporting, Pacio says this: "I'm sure my biases show through sometimes – everybody has biases – though I always try not to let them influence me. It helps to focus on the facts: what saw, heard, etc."

When journalists reveal a bias or are careless about checking their facts, "it gives the rest of us a bad name," says Pacio.

As for editorials and editorializing, Pacio doesn't write editorials, as she doesn't feel that's her strength. She says, "I don't actually have a lot of loud, strong opinions. I thrive on research writing."

Both she and Hustak have reservations about being the subject of an interview. "I'm used to seeing things from the outside looking in," she says. "Writing is more my thing than speaking."

For his part, Hustak says "A reporter should never be the news."

Still, I'm grateful to know them a little better.

As always, contact akyddwrt@sasktel.net with comments or questions.

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Saskatchewan adds over 15,000 full time jobs in May

By Provincial
Grasslands News

Statistics Canada latest labour force numbers show that Saskatchewan has maintained a strong labour market and steady growth throughout the year. Saskatchewan has the lowest unemployment rate in the nation at 4.2 per cent.

“There are more people working in Saskatchewan than ever before,” Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Career Training Jim Reiter said. “We are experiencing record job growth and our

province continues to be an economic leader in Canada.”

The province led the nation in year-over-year job growth, adding 16,300 jobs year-over-year in May, ranking first among provinces in terms of percentage change at 2.7 per cent.

May 2025 saw all-time historical highs (aged 15

and over), with:

- Saskatchewan’s labour force reaching 653,900;
- Saskatchewan’s full-time employment reaching 518,800; and
- Saskatchewan’s women employment reaching 294,300.

Year-over-year, full-time employment increased by 15,300, an increase of 3.0 per cent. Employment for women is up 10,900 which is an increase of 3.8 per cent, and employment for men is up

5,300 an increase of 1.6 per cent.

Saskatchewan’s two biggest cities also saw year-over-year growth. Compared to May 2024, Saskatoon’s employment was up 7,900, an increase of 4.1 per cent, and Regina’s employment was up 5,100, an increase of 3.5 per cent.

Major year-over-year gains were reported for health care and social assistance up 11,400, an increase of 12.4 per cent. Construction is up 7,000

an increase of 16.3 per cent and public administration is up 6,100 an increase of 16.8 per cent.

The province continues to see economic growth in other areas. Saskatchewan GDP reached 80.5 billion in 2024 and increase of 3.4 per cent from 2023. In March 2025, Saskatchewan also ranked highest amongst provinces for year-over-year growth in building construction investment (27.8 per cent) and second in retail trade value (8.2 per cent).

Street art collective launched

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

The Midsummer Arts Festival in Fort Qu'Appelle has launched an innovative community art project that create street sculptures out of decorated boxes that will be bound together and displayed on main street to promote the annual event in August.

Everyone is invited to doodle a design and help festival organizer Jill Whiting create abstract patterns on wrapping paper with a black and white felt pen.

“It is all about the design,” says Whiting, “There is no right or wrong way to draw the patterns. Anyone, no matter how old they are can help create art.”

Cardboard boxes will be wrapped in the decorated paper and then piled up and taped together to create sculptures that will be installed in various locations along Broadway Street during the festival.

“Depending on how many boxes are wrapped we could put them at the Four Corners or even tape them to storefront windows,” says Whiting, “There is no limit to the possibilities.”

Anyone, no matter how young or old who wants to help is welcome to let their imaginations run wild and contribute to the wacky and wonderful design project.

Creative sessions take place at the Library each Tuesday evening after 6:30 p.m.



Box sculptures
Midsummer Arts Festival co-ordinator Jill Whiting designs patterns for the cardboard box sculptures.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

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Renewed calls for White City High School spark interest in petition

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

In June 2023, Jennifer Ford started a Change.org petition to build a high school in White City in the hopes that her son might one day be able to attend. For two years, the petition has grown in signatures as politicians pledge funding, but, as yet, no ground has been broken on the site set aside for the future school.

Last month, interest in the project was renewed as the Saskatchewan NDP and the Town of White City jointly called on the Ministry of Education to build not just the high school, but a third elementary school in the growing community.

Prairie Valley School Division says their plan for the 2026-2027 budget does not include new schools for White

City. It’s a song and dance Ford says she has heard before.

“I have talked to a lot of fellow Grade 6 parents about it,” Ford says. “One of them has a son who is in Grade 11. She said when he started, there was a petition at that time for a high school, and she was really hoping he would get to go to it. Now it’s looking like none of her kids will get to go to it at this point, because her youngest is in Grade 6. There’s been that push.”

According to the last census, White City’s population grew by 23 per cent between 2016 and 2021. At the time, 3,702 people lived in the town, with 1,020 residents under the age of 15. Students in high school are currently bused to Greenall School in Balgonie while the community’s two elementary schools – Emerald Ridge Elementary and École White City – are operating over capacity for enrollment limits.

“I want it for the kids,” Ford says. “There’s a large population in White City, and even taking that population from Balgonie would mean they still have a large school. We could totally do one in the White City area, and it would be better for transport and all kinds of things. Greenall is getting old. Even with the renovations, it’s getting older. It has a huge population.”

Greenall School received funding approval in the spring of 2023 for renovations to modernize and expand the structure. At that time, it was predicted that the population of high school-aged students in White City would climb to 600 by 2030. Those numbers do not reflect the numbers of the neighbouring community of Emerald Park and the greater RM of Edenwold.

“They could have done it 10 years ago,” Ford says. “If they had built it ten years ago, the capacity would have built slowly while having enough students. Now it’s definitely enough to fill a school. We have two elementary schools feeding into one high school in another town. So they could easily feed into one high school in town.”

Ford says she understands the budget concerns the government is facing when it comes to applying funding to various schools and communities across the province. For her, the push for a school closer to home goes beyond commute times, class sizes, and billet concerns. As a foster mother, she says her son’s education has been riddled by uncertainty and breaks in his education. With White City being his most consistent educational hub, she would like to continue that stability moving forward.

“I don’t want my kids to get lost in the system,” Ford says. “Your risk of getting lost in the sea of faces is greater the bigger the sea.”

Ford says the NDP has reached out to her over the years to join their events, but she has historically declined their offers.

“When the NDP invites me to something, I think about it, but I don’t want to be associated with any political group,” Ford explains. “I want to be politically neutral because I just want the building and the staff.”

This week, her petition hit 846 verified signatures and, despite the delays and empty promises over the years, Ford says she still has hope.

“I really hope my younger three get to go to White City High School and don’t have to go to Balgonie,” Ford says. “I would love if my oldest didn’t have to go to Balgonie. I would love them to approve it and break ground, even in the next year. I always have hope.”

Ford’s petition can be signed on the Change.org website by searching: Get White City/ Emerald Park a High School.

New Balgonie swimming pool nearing completion

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

After around two decades of local fundraising and nearly a year of construction, a new era is less than four weeks away for swimming pool users in Balgonie and surrounding area.

Town superintendent Shaun McBain told Grasslands News in a phone interview that everything remains on track for the community’s new pool facility to open July 1, with a grand opening ceremony to follow on July 8.

“The pool liner is going in today and there’s a large pad being poured tomorrow so the two-story slide can get erected this weekend,” McBain said Tuesday.

The new facility, which McBain said will cost around \$3.6 million when all is said and done, centres around a new 430 square-metre pool to replace the town’s previous one which was built in 1971. Features include a fully-accessible, zero-depth beach entry, a three-metre depth in the deep end, a diving board, a tot waterslide, a two-story twister waterslide and a water umbrella.

“Our old pool was quite small so it kind of catered more to that age group around 3-10 or 3-11 and then kids aged 12 and up really didn’t like to use it ... so now we think we’ve got all the bases covered with this new one,” said McBain.

A new office and change room facility has also been built, along with a new pump house.

In announcing \$2.15 million worth of grant money for the project in April 2023, the federal and provincial gov-

ernments noted the pool is to include a new high-efficiency heating system as well as a new water treatment and circulation system to comply with regulations that have been updated substantially since the 1970s.

McBain added that the office and change room facility is 99 per cent complete, with landscaping – including installation of underground sprinklers – comprising most of the remaining work on site.

“We’re expecting substantial completion by June 24 from our contractors,” he said.

A condition of the combined federal-provincial funding required the town to contribute just over \$780,000 of its own with any necessary funds beyond that to be raised locally.

A significant piece of that difference was generated by the pool’s volunteer board, which the town’s June newsletter said raised over \$25,000 from its most recent Ladies’ Night event in addition to \$60,000 in previous contributions.

The RM of Edenwold and Town of White City provided additional municipal financial support as well.

“Unbelievable,” McBain said of the support the new pool has received from donors both in town and beyond. “We’ve always promoted this not only for local residents themselves but also for the region, so places like Emerald Park, White City, Edenwold, Pilot Butte and McLean.

“It’s very important just to keep that active lifestyle for families and give them a place to go give them a hangout for the summer and ... give the kids something to do.”



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Exciting upgrades begin at Emerald Ridge Sports Field

Submitted
Grasslands News

A joint project to upgrade the Emerald Ridge Sports Field at Emerald Ridge Elementary School is scheduled to begin in July 2025. This project represents a major investment in local recreation and community well-being, made possible through strong collaboration between municipalities, local businesses, and community organizations.

Starting in July 2025, the field will undergo significant improvements, including regrading for better drainage, the addition of new topsoil, the installation of a full irrigation system, and fresh sod to create a smooth, durable playing surface. The work will be completed by local contractors, with support from both the RM of Edenwold and the Town of White City.

“This is a great example of what strong partnerships can accomplish. White City, the RM of Edenwold, Emer-

ald Ridge Elementary School, and Prairie Valley School Division are all working together to invest in a space that brings lasting value to our residents,” said Mayor Mitch Simpson.

Reeve Al Trainor shared, “This work will be completed by local contractors, the RM of Edenwold and the Town of White City. We’d like to thank Serbu Sand and Gravel, Pacific Irrigation, Victoria Jewellers, Enbridge, WCE Designs, Dumur Industries, and Loraas Disposal for their sponsorship and contribution to an asset the entire community can be proud of.”

“While the field will be fenced off until spring 2026 to allow the new sod to fully establish, we know it’ll be worth the wait,” added Trainor.

Mayor Simpson concluded, “We’re proud to support projects that build strong, active, and connected communities. If you’d like to get involved, please reach out to the White City Town Office for more details.”

Brad Crassweller

MLA for White City - Qu'Appelle

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF PILOT BUTTE



Notice of Intent to Review a Discretionary Use Application

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Pilot Butte intends to review an application for the issuance of two Development Permits for the Discretionary Use of a Recreation Space and a Commercial Gym as per Section 3.2 of the Town of Pilot Butte’s Zoning Bylaw No. 2-2023 and Section 55 of the *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*.

LOCATION:
1000 Access Rd 624, legally described as Blk/Par D-Plan 102257917 Ext 0.

REASON:
Commercial Gym—The applicant would like to open a locally owned commercial gym aiming to create a welcoming fitness space within the community.

Recreation Space—The applicant would like to open a commercial recreation space that offers wide varieties of classes from dance to yoga. The applicant would also like to use the space for counseling members.



PUBLIC INSECTION:
Any person may inspect the proposed Discretionary Use Application at the Town Office—222 Diamond Place, Pilot Butte, SK S0G 3Z0 between 9 AM—12 PM and 1 PM—5 PM from Monday to Thursday, and between 9 AM—12 PM on Fridays, excluding statutory holidays.

REPRESENTATIONS:
The Municipality is open to accepting any representations from the public that state their concerns or comments regarding the proposed Discretionary Use Application. Written, online, or any other representations shall be submitted with your full name and address no later than June 19, 2025 to the Town Office or email to planner@pilotbutte.ca

PUBLIC HEARING:
Council will hold a **public hearing** for the proposed Discretionary Use Application on **June 23, 2025** at the Town’s Council Chambers to hear any concerns from the Public. To confirm your participation in the public hearing, please send us an email with your full name and address no later than June 19, 2025.

For further information, please send an email or contact the Town Planner at (306) 781-6250.

Issued at the Town of Pilot Butte, this June 13, 2025.

Princes Guzman, Town Planner



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SPORTS

Novak to make Greenall history with CFL debut

Linebacker named to Blue Bombers' active roster out of first pro camp

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Lane Novak is already converting them from green and white to blue and gold.

After two preseason games with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the 23-year-old from White City learned Saturday he'd survived final cuts and would be part of the team's active roster to start the 2025 Canadian Football League season.

The Bombers drafted Novak in the fifth round, 45th overall, of the CFL Draft which was held April 29.

"Lots of my family are switching over from the (Saskatchewan) Roughriders to the Bombers, and there was lots of my family wearing blue at the first preseason game," Novak said laughing in a phone interview Tuesday while driving back to Winnipeg from Saskatoon.

Novak got his first taste of CFL football rotating in and out on special teams as Winnipeg beat Saskatchewan 15-9 on May 24 in the Manitoba capital.

In the May 30 rematch at Regina, he saw increased playing time not just on teams but also with his first defensive reps at linebacker, where he starred first for Balgonie's Greenall Griffins high school program and more recently for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Novak recorded one defensive tackle as the Bombers finished the pre-season unbeaten with a



Blue Bomber Linebacker
Lane Novak speaks to media after the final day of his first Winnipeg Blue Bombers training camp, May 28.



27-20 win over the Riders. "Obviously through this whole experience that was one of the most special ones so far, was that game we played in Regina and I had about 25-plus friends and family mem-

bers all wearing blue and cheering and chanting for me," Novak said.

Barring injury, Novak should experience another milestone when Winnipeg opens its regular season Thursday against the B.C. Lions.

In addition to being his own (presumed) official CFL debut, the occasion would also make him the first Greenall football alumnus to play professional football.

Retired Griffins coach Cory Lechner said Wednesday that Novak

was also the first player in team history to even be drafted by a CFL club.

"He's a good kid, he was a good student, and he's a hard worker," Lechner told Grasslands News. "The first time I saw him I thought 'this kid can really play' so I'm not surprised.

"I'm really proud that he made it and it's a good feeling for this old, retired coach."

Finding Out

Novak learned his fate Saturday afternoon with

““When you step on the field everything else kind of disappears and I’m able to just focus on the job.”
- Winnipeg Linebacker, Lane Novak

what amounted to an exercise in hurry-up-and-wait.

"It was a stressful day no doubt," he said. "The way things work is you're told to go sit in your dorm and then the coaches

go around knocking on doors. The earliest knocks are the cuts and the next ones are the practice roster guys, and if you don't get a knock it signifies you're on the roster. So you're just sitting around all afternoon not knowing if you're getting the knock or not.

"Eventually it came time where I had a team thing to get to, so I texted a team personnel guy and said 'Hey, do I need to be in my dorm anymore?' and he said no.

"It was a lot of joy and excitement for me."

Naturally he also expects some nervous energy to build up before Thursday's date with the Lions – but only until the game starts.

"When you step on the field everything else kind of disappears and I'm able to just focus on the job in front of me, so all those nerves kind of disappear when the whistle blows, or at least that's how it is for me," said Novak, who says his dad Peter, mom LeeAnn and sister Kelsea are all planning to attend the game.

"That's really what the preseason's all about is getting away from that deer-in-headlights feeling. I know it's another step... and it's for real now, so there's definitely going to be some nerves but it's not like it's Mars to me."

Winnipeg had its third consecutive day of practice today and will take the weekend off before resuming practice Monday ahead of the season opener.

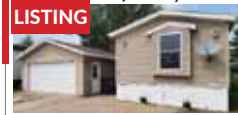
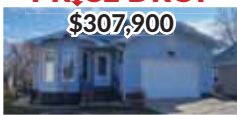
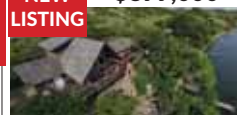
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\$115,000  301- 680 7th E, Melville MLS#SK992340 Condo 1 bd, 1 bth	NEW LISTING \$149,000  273 - 9th Ave. W, Melville MLS#008239 House 3 bds, 2 bth	SOLD \$149,900  110 - 5th Ave. W, Melville MLS#002828 House 3 bds, 1 bth	NEW LISTING \$159,000  555 Dielschneider RD #8, Melville MLS#007917 House 3 bds, 2 bth	\$175,000  555 Dielschneider RD #32, Melville MLS#006871 House 3 bds, 2 bth	\$230,000  444 - 10th Ave. W, Melville MLS#0004534 House 4 bds, 2 bth
\$268,000  167 Winnipeg ST, Melville MLS#006354 House 3 bds, 2 bth	PRICE DROP \$307,900  133 - 10th Ave. W, Melville MLS#003836 House 5 bds, 2 bth	SOLD \$330,000  4 Garvin Bay, Melville MLS#005510 House 4 bds, 3 bths	PRICE DROP \$499,999  859 Montreal St., Melville MLS#SK993004 House 3 bds, 3 bths	NEW LISTING \$899,000  456-Abel Dr., Crooked Lake MLS#008969 House 3 bds, 4 bth	\$999,999  424-Abel Dr., Crooked Lake MLS#SK988185 House 6 bds, 5 bths

Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

The CFL season kicked off in Regina last week and the Roughriders of this season looked a lot like last-year's edition.

The Riders and the Ottawa Redblacks faced off in the Queen City in front of 26,000 fans – 7,000 shy of capacity – with the home side coming out on top of a 31-26 score.

The Roughies, who once held a 24-7 lead in the contest, watched the advantage disappear during the second half of the third quarter and the entire fourth.

With a fairly large lead, the Riders decided to play that boring, run-it-up-the-gut-on-every-first-down style that can leave the opposition licking its chops.

It didn't help a lot that the Riders were busy playing hot potato with the football in the second half, fumbling away a couple of chances to put the Red-blacks away for good.

For the Riders to be taken seriously this campaign, they'll need their pass-catchers to secure the ball and put it away after the catch.

Dropping passes or fumbling when you're trying to make something out of nothing will ruin any football team's chances of being a consistent winner, and the Riders' receivers and coach Corey Mace need to have a serious heart-to-heart and figure out how to hang on the ball.

The only thing you can't plan for in football is turnovers, because they are inevitable.

And while you can never eliminate fumbles and dropped passes completely, they definitely need to pay more attention to detail.

While the secondary played far too soft and kept letting Ottawa back into the game, the defensive line smelled blood in the water in the game's late stages, and made a couple of sacks that put an end to any hopes of a Redblacks comeback.

Saskatchewan quarterback Trevor Harris was great early in the game, and was probably hamstrung by conservative play calling later in the game, as he completed 19 of 26 passes for 277 yards as well as two touchdowns and one pick.

Running back AJ Ouellette had three carries for 21 yards before leaving the game with an upper-body issue, something that Riders' fans should keep an eye on. Is Ouellette anything more than a walking Bandaid at this point? Last year he appeared in only eight games and this year, he gets knocked out of play early once again.

With Ouellette hurt, fans saw the emergence of Thomas Bertrand-Hudon as a threat at running back.

Many of his plays were runs up the middle, designed to simply keep the clock rolling and keep the Riders in possession of the ball, but when he had to make plays, he did, running in one touchdown and catching a pass to score another major.

At least, if Ouellette is going to miss a bunch of time, the Riders know they have another guy who can play in the backfield.

Samuel Emilus looked solid, if not spectacular at times, as he caught eight passes for 133 yards and a TD, looking like he'll be one of Harris' main weapons this season.

What was a bit distressing about the opening night contest was that it looked like it was 'Dress Like a Seat' night at Mosaic Stadium.

Just a few short years ago, Roughrider tickets were the toughest to secure in the province and now, there always seems to be a multitude of seats available for every game.

It just goes to show that COVID 19 continues to take a bite out of crowds, three years after the province was for the most part, locked down to keep people safe – this scribe is certain that there are piles of folks who'd like a do-over of our 'scamdemic' response.

Some people must have gotten used to not going to games when they weren't able to gather, and as a result, there are plenty of empty green seats where a Riders' supporter used to sit.

Hopefully, this team will improve and some game day events will put some butts in the chairs as the season progresses.

All in all though, it was a good first week to be a fan of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, but since the true ability of their opposition is a bit of an unknown at this point, it's hard to say where they stack up with the rest of the CFL.

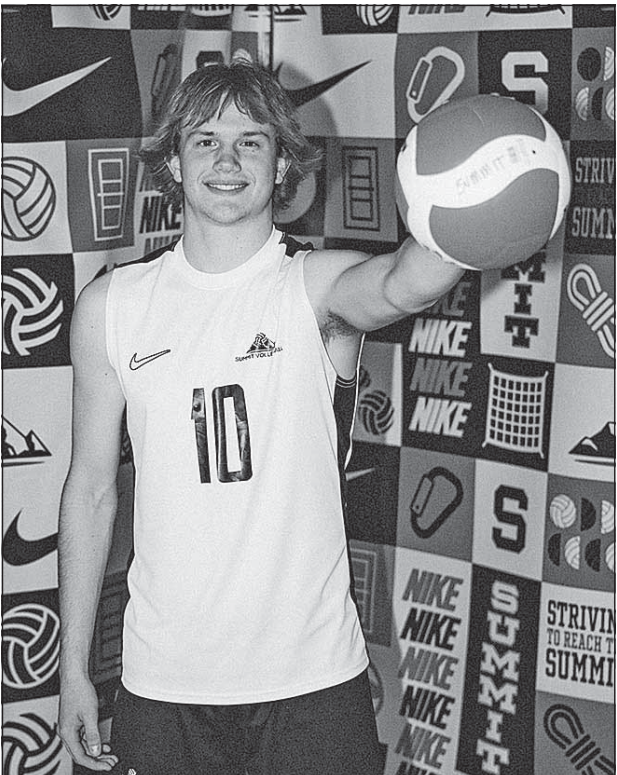
Next week the Riders are Hamilton bound to take on the Ticats, and maybe we'll all know a little more after that game.

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Wandy selected for U16 Sask. volleyball team

Submitted
Grasslands News

Melville's own Nate Wandy has earned a spot on the U16 Team Saskatchewan Volleyball White Selects team and will represent the province at the 2025 Canada Cup, taking place in Thorold, ON from July 22 to 27. Wandy



NATE WANDY

will join more than 300 of the top volleyball athletes, ages 15 to 18, from across Canada as they represent their provinces and territories at this prestigious national volleyball championship.

A Grade 10 student at Melville Comprehensive School, Wandy began playing volleyball in Grade 7 as the junior boy's starting setter. Now standing at an impressive 6'4", he plays as an outside hitter – left side for his school team and right side for his club team. His club volleyball journey began in Grade 8 with the Yorkton Bongos Volleyball Club, and it wasn't long before his size, skill, and on court intelligence caught the attention of Sask Volleyball's High Performance Provincial Team Program.

Wandy's first provincial nod came in Grade 8 when he was invited to the Future Selects Camp. By Grade 9, just 14 years old, he had already cracked the Melville Cobras' senior team as a starting left-side hitter. That same year, he was one of only two 15-year-olds named as a Red Shirt Athlete with the U16 White Selects, spending two intensive weeks training with elite coaches and sport science professionals in Saskatoon and Regina.

This past season, Wandy competed at the U16 level with Summit Volleyball in Regina, helping his team to a strong fourth-place finish in Division 1 at Provincials. His consistent performance has continued to turn heads. He was invited to Team Canada's prestigious National Excellence Program camp in December and again to the Team Sask Selects Camp in May – further recognition of his ability to compete among the province's very best.

Though still early in his career, with an 11'-1" spike touch and a 10'-4" block jump, a relentless work ethic, and deep passion for the game, Nate's progress and potential suggest he's just getting started on a promising path in volleyball.

To follow Wandy and his teammates at the Canada Cup this summer, please visit <https://iset.net/>

Hall of Fame controversy still follows Pete Rose

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Pete Rose, a Hall of Famer? Yes or no?

The late Rose, who passed away in September of 2024, is at the heart of one of baseball's greatest debates: Should he be admitted to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y?

There's no debate about his credentials, of course. All he did during a 20-year career with Cincinnati Reds, Philadelphia Phillies and Montreal Expos was accumulate more base hits than anyone else in the history of the game. Is Wayne Gretzky Hockey Hall of Fame worthy? Is Michael Jordan a Hall of Famer at the basketball shrine in Springfield, Mass? Would Tom Brady deserve a bust at the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio?

Of course, yes, yes, yes, yes to all of the above. Rose accumulated 4,256 base hits, but he's still not in the Hall of Fame because he violated one of Major League Baseball's most sacred rules: He bet on the results of baseball games. No one is sure whether he bet on his own teams to win or lose, but he laid down bets and in the world of baseball, that's sacrilegious.

To no one's surprise, Rose was given a lifetime ban in 1989 by then Commissioner Bart Giamatti and declared 'permanently ineligible' for the Hall of Fame. But now that he has passed away, things have changed. Today's commissioner, Rob Manfred, announced in May that Rose and Joe Jackson, banned in the 1920s for conspiring with gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series, would have their names removed from the 'permanently ineligible' list.

So the debate is resurrected. Rose's on-field credits are sublime. But his name hasn't been on the Hall of Fame ballot because of the commissioner's banishment. Now, however, his name can appear on the Veterans Committee ballot. If he were to garner a minimum 75 per cent of votes cast at the next vote, in December, 2027, he would receive a posthumous induction into Cooperstown.

It's unlikely, however, that he would achieve the 75-per-cent threshold. The Rose subject has polarized the baseball world, with one side saying the on-field performance should be all that matters and the other side saying he disgraced the game and should be permanently banned. He might get more than 50 per cent of the votes cast, but 75 per cent is asking a lot under such controversial circumstances.

While reaction was both positive and negative on the lifting of the Rose ban, the positive side seemed to win the day. A statement by the Reds' owner Bob Castellini said "on behalf of the Reds and our generations of loyal fans, we are thankful for the decision by Commissioner Manfred and Major League Baseball for the removal of Pete Rose from the permanently ineligible list. Pete is one of the greatest players in baseball history and Reds

Sports Column
By Bruce Penton



Country will continue to celebrate him as we always have."

Will he get the 75 per cent? The answer from here is 'no,' and you can bet on it.

- Columnist Norman Chad: "Pete Rose's lifetime ban has been lifted, raising the question: Does a lifetime ban end when the lifetime does?"

- The late great NBA star Wilt Chamberlain: "They say that nobody's perfect. Then they say practice makes perfect. I wish they'd make up their minds."

- U.S. college basketball coach Billy Tubbs: "This year we plan to run and shoot. Next year we plan to run and score."

- Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "The Colorado Rockies have won three in a row. Let's really hope this isn't a sign of the apocalypse."

- Canadian parody website The Beaverton.com: "'You should root for the Oilers because they're Canadian,' says man who has confused this with the Olympics."

- Another one from The Beaverton: "Hockey players shake hands, say there are no hard feelings about the permanent brain damage."

- Norman Chad again: "Skipped NBA Finals tonight because ... Mediocre teams from small markets playing; never heard of any of these players; OKC probably sweeps this series; games are never close or exciting."

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "According to a recent survey, men with facial hair are more attractive to women than clean-shaven men. I'm guessing the study wasn't commissioned during the NHL playoffs."

- Headline at fark.com: "Dallas Stars throw coach Pete DeBoer off the team bus a week after he threw their goalie under it."

- One more from fark.com: "'Okay, but this time we REALLY mean it,' says Jacobs/Sweeney/Neely as the Bruins hire Marco Sturm, their third coach in three years."

- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "So explain Madison Square Garden to me: The Knicks fire coach Tom Thibodeau after he takes the team further than it has been in centuries. And at the same time, MSF re-ups Rangers general manager Chris Drury, after New York had one of its most dysfunctional seasons ever. The notion being: Do well and you get fired. Do lousy and you get an extension."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Byrnell sets the bar with new high jump record

High school track and field provincials held at Moose Jaw

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Shayla Byrnell apparently knows a thing or two about making a first impression.

Competing at her first Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association track and field championships this past weekend in Moose Jaw, the Grade 9 student from Kipling School not only won the intermediate girls’ high jump but set a new provincial record in the process.

Byrnell’s winning jump of 1.67 metres the morning of June 6 was nine centimetres better than Unity’s Mya Kostiuik, who won silver, and 2 cm higher than the mark set by Prince Albert’s Chloe Hetherton in 2008.

Melville’s Michaela Sojila finished ninth in this year’s event, clearing 1.40 m.

“Has it sunk in yet? No. I haven’t really thought about it too much,” Byrnell said bashfully in a phone interview Tuesday. “It’s pretty cool though. A bunch of people come up to me in school now.”

Byrnell said she has been competing in high jump since Grade 6 but considers herself a volleyball player first and foremost.

“She does have good work ethic but her technical stuff ... she’s kind of more a just wing it and hope for the best kind of person, so we’re going to work on that because she can jump much higher if we work on it,” said Kipling track coach Alyssa Lang.

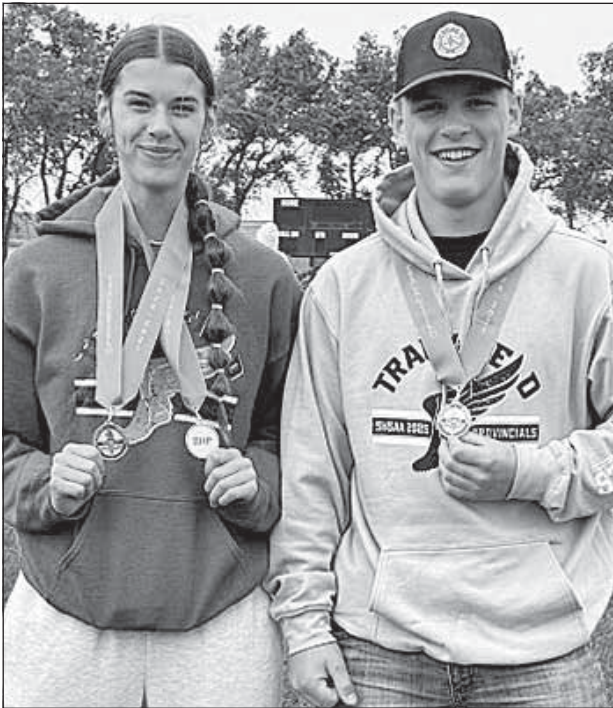
“She has legs for days and can jump really high is what it comes down to. Her height is her advantage right now.”

The medal was one of two for Byrnell at provincials and three for the school overall.

Byrnell also won bronze in the triple jump with a leap of 10.22 m while Magyars teammate Sheldon Puffalt claimed silver in the senior boys’ tetrathlon.

Puffalt recorded 2491 points in the event after placing first in shot put (13.07 m), fifth in the 800 m run (2 minutes 17.78 seconds), sixth in the 100 m dash (11.69 s) and eighth in long jump (5.47 m).

“It means lot to school as a whole just to have banners that aren’t for volleyball,” said Lang. “We’re known as a volleyball school for the most part, so track and field, being successful there puts the spotlight onto a really short season that a lot of people work really hard at and don’t always get recognized for.”



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Medals won

Kipling School students Shayla Burnell, left, and Sheldon Puffalt pose with their medals from the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association provincial track and field championships. The two-day event wrapped up Saturday at Gutheridge Field in Moose Jaw.

In a Medal Mood

Balgonie Greenall student Aurelia Whyte and a pair of Gordon F. Kells High School students from Carlyle – Dane Peterson and Liam Thompson – also returned home as provincial champions.

Whyte won the intermediate girls’ shot put with a throw of 11.85 m, Peterson won the senior boys’ shot put at 14.10 m and Thompson won the junior boys’ tetrathlon with 2,227 points.

Vibank Regional School student Noah Lenz finished 10th behind Peterson with a throw of 11.72 m while

Whitewood’s Connor Francis (sixth, 1,889 points) and Wawota’s Jesse Gradin (10th, 1,765 points) were among the other competitors in the tetrathlon.

Silver medalists from southeast Saskatchewan included Melville’s Wyatt Dubiel in the junior boys’ javelin (43.34 m) and Moosomin’s Luke Holman in the senior boys’ 1,500 m run (4:15.42) and 3,000 m (9:20.21).

Among the region’s bronze medalists were:

- Lenz with the Qu’Appelle Valley district team’s 4x400 m relay squad
- Jasper Rieger (Greenall) in the intermediate boys’ high jump (1.76 m)
- Emerson Sparvier (Whitewood) in the intermediate boys’ tetrathlon (1,904 points)
- Emerson Williamson (Greenall) in the junior girls’ 200 m race (26.70 s)
- Chase Himmelspach (Carlyle) in the senior boys’ javelin (47.33 m)

Narrowly missing the podium was Greenall School’s Ty Heisler whose long jump of 5.57 m left him 1 cm short of the intermediate boys’ podium. Heisler’s Griffins teammate Lucas Sulewski (1.80 m, senior boys’ high jump), Kipling’s Alex Bourhis (41.49 m, junior boys’ javelin) and Holman (2:00.29, senior boys’ 800 m) also recorded fourth-place finishes at provincials.

Top individual finishers from Lipton, Indian Head and Wolseley respectively were Ty Haanstra (fifth, senior boys’ 100 m hurdles, 14.48 s), Chloe Clark (eighth, junior girls’ 1,500 m, 5:51.36) and Darina Denhub (10th, junior girls’ discus, 24.66 m).

Southeast Men's Fastball League

Date	Away	Home	Times
13-Jun	Neudorf	Cowessess	8 p.m.
16-Jun	Whitewood	Neudorf	7 p.m.
	Cowessess	Grenfell	8 p.m.
18-Jun	Grenfell	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
19-Jun	Ochapowace	Round Lake	8 p.m.
	Cowessess	Neudorf	7 p.m.
20-Jun	Whitewood	Grenfell	8 p.m.
23-Jun	Neudorf	Grenfell	8 p.m.
	Cowessess	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
24-Jun	Neudorf	Round Lake	8 p.m.
25-Jun	Ochapowace	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.

Boating safety promoted in Fort Qu’Appelle

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan has the second highest drowning rate per capita in Canada after Newfoundland and alcohol is often a factor.

“On average 24 people in the province drown each year,” Logan Campbell, a special lifesaving and project coordinator with the provincial life-guard society told a boating safety forum in Fort Qu’Appelle on Friday, June 6. “Drinking alcohol on the water is the biggest problem. We have to

do better. It has to stop.” Campbell also speculated that part the high fatality rate could be caused by the shock of hitting cold water. “If you fall out of a boat without a life jacket and take in a breath of ice-cold water you’re not coming back up.” (Anything under 17°C is classified as cold water).

No one drowned in the four Calling Lakes last year but John Maczko, the director of operations for Amphibious Response Support Unit One (ARSU), said there were nine close calls. “We don’t get along

with floaties,” he said. “We had 92 interventions last year and assisted boaters and people on floaties. Seventy of those incidents required immediate intervention.”

The most serious involved a woman who couldn’t swim, who wasn’t wearing a life jacket and who didn’t stay within the swimming area whose inflatable swan was swept out and set adrift on Echo Lake.

“There was a great party going on the beach and no one was watching her. Two people who weren’t wearing life jackets decided to get out and swim to rescue her. We could have had three potential drownings,” said Maczko.

Another incident involved a man who fell asleep on an air mattress on the hottest day of the year. “Not a wise thing to do.” added Maczko who said provincial parks have life jackets that visitors can borrow.

The forum was part of a four-day program organized by ARSU and included representatives of Transport Canada,

the RCMP, the conservation service and the fire department. The information session covered a number of topics including technical boating registration, boating regulations and water safety.

“It is not often that you have representatives of five organizations like that under one roof. It was a great opportunity for those who wanted to learn about boating safety and regulations,” said Maczko.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Proper equipment

ARSU operations director John Maczko, right, impresses upon White City-Qu’Appelle MLA Brad Crassweller, left, the importance of wearing a life jacket on the water.

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Some local fire bans lifted around the province

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Recent rainfall has, for now, alleviated the wild-fire danger in southeast Saskatchewan and several municipalities have lifted their local fire bans as a result.

As of Tuesday morning (June 10) information provided by the provin-

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cial government showed the towns of White City and Balgonie along with the RMs of Spy Hill, Abernethy, Tullymet and Ituna Bon Accord had lifted municipal bans that were in place one week earlier.

Bans remained in place for the towns of

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Pilot Butte, Abernethy and Ituna, as well as the RMs of South Qu’Appelle, Edenwold, Sherwood, McLeod, North Qu’Appelle, Lipton, Wallace, Orkney and Garry.

Province-wide, 171 municipal fire bans remained in effect as of Tuesday morning, down

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from 182 a week earlier.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency’s fire weather index map for Tuesday showed wild-fire risk beginning to dissipate in Saskatchewan’s north and far east compared with the previous week, though “extreme” danger was still being reported for communities closer to Regina, including those in the RMs of

Edenwold, Francis, South Qu’Appelle, North Qu’Appelle and Lipton.

SPSA data as of Tuesday afternoon also showed 23 active wild-fires currently burning in Saskatchewan, with just four considered to be contained.

Those fires have forced the evacuation of multiple communities including Flin Flon, La Ronge and

Air Ronge, and smoke from those fires has also drifted southward over the past couple weeks, resulting in the postponement or outright cancellation of many outdoor events.

A provincial state of emergency was declared May 29 and remained in effect as of Tuesday afternoon.

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below.

The tenders will be deliberated on Wednesday, 16 July 2025 at 7:00 pm at Town of Cupar Office at 11 Stanley Street, Cupar, Saskatchewan.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS

Roll Number: 194
Assessment ID / Alt. #: 505014400-01
Legal Land Description (LLD): Lot 11-12 13 AX3125
Civic Address: 108 Lorne Street, Cupar, SK
Zoning: Residential

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$9,700.00 for a total assessed value of \$9,700.00.

Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted.

TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Bidders are required to review the complete tender documents for important information regarding conditions of sale and responsibilities of the purchaser regarding property condition. Property photos will not be provided.

Submit Tenders with the following details:
Attention: Rhys Sutter, CPA
Mailing Address: Dudley & Company LLP - #100-2255 13th Avenue, Regina SK S4P 0V6
Deadline: 2:00 p.m. local time, July 9, 2025

Tenders by seal bid must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 % (percent) of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/ bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality, and a description of the bidder’s plans for the property ensuring the purpose meets the requirements in the Town’s Zoning Bylaw.

Tenders will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time on July 10, 2025 by Rhys Sutter, summarized and provided to council.

It is the responsibility of the person submitting the bid to confirm that it was received by the auditors before the deadline.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value according to the last returned assessment roll may or may not be representative of the current fair market value of the property

This sale is governed by *The Tax Enforcement Act*.

The successful purchaser will be required to pay the full amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes or fees that may be applicable, including taxes and all title transfer and legal fees.

The Municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, July 10 2025, at the Town of Cupar Municipal Office, 111 Stanley Street, PO Box 397, Cupar, SK S0G 0Y0.

The tenders will then be opened on Wednesday, 16 July 2025 at 7:00 pm at Cupar Town Office, Cupar, SK.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS

Roll Number: 134
Assessment ID / Alt. #: 505008950-01
Legal Land Description (LLD): Lot 7 BLOCK 8 PLAN D4304
Civic Address: 207 Lorne Street, Cupar, SK
Zoning: Residential

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$5400.00 for a total assessed value of \$5,400.00.

Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted.

TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Bidders are required to review the complete tender documents for important information regarding conditions of sale and responsibilities of the purchaser regarding property condition. Property photos will not be provided.

Tenders by seal bid must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 % (percent) of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/ bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality, and a description of the bidder’s plans for the property ensuring the purpose meets the requirements in the Town’s Zoning Bylaw.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value according to the last returned assessment roll may or may not be representative of the current fair market value of the property

This sale is governed by *The Tax Enforcement Act*.

The successful purchaser will be required to pay the full amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes or fees that may be applicable, including taxes and all title transfer and legal fees.

The Municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender and the tender documents are available through the Municipal Office.

For further information contact the Town of Cupar.

Aimee Germain
Town of Cupar
111 Stanley Street
Box 397, Cupar, SK S0G0Y0
306-723-4324
cao@townofcupar.com

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, July 10 2025, at the Town of Cupar Municipal Office, 111 Stanley Street, PO Box 397, Cupar, SK S0G 0Y0.

The tenders will then be opened on Wednesday, 16 July 2025 at 7:00 pm at Cupar Town Office, Cupar, SK.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS

Roll Number: 179
Assessment ID / Alt. #: 505013000-01
Legal Land Description (LLD): Lot 4 BLOCK 12 PLAN AX3125
Civic Address: 213 Grey Street, Cupar, SK
Zoning: Residential

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$5400.00 for a total assessed value of \$5,400.00.

Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted.

TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Bidders are required to review the complete tender documents for important information regarding conditions of sale and responsibilities of the purchaser regarding property condition. Property photos will not be provided.

Tenders by seal bid must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 % (percent) of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/ bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality, and a description of the bidder’s plans for the property ensuring the purpose meets the requirements in the Town’s Zoning Bylaw.

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Aimee Germain
Town of Cupar
111 Stanley Street
Box 397, Cupar, SK S0G0Y0
306-723-4324
cao@townofcupar.com

Art show, Volunteer Recognition Tea at Balcarres

By Judy Hershmillier
Grasslands News

Events at Care Centre

Members of the Balcarres Art Club recently hosted an art show in the Activity Room at the BICC. Many of the residents enjoyed looking at the paintings that were on display, and visiting with the artists who were pleased to answer questions.

The next day the Recreation Dept. at the BICC hosted a Volunteer Recognition Tea at the Seniors Centre to people who go to the BICC to assist in the many programs planned during the year.

The handicap bus brought several residents to the Seniors Centre to gather with the volunteers and a luncheon and social time was enjoyed. Rec. director Rylie thanked all the volunteers present for their many hours of time spent helping, hosting events and visiting with the seniors. Without this addition of helping hands many of the programs would not be able to be held to enrich the daily lives of our residents. Several draws were made,

and congratulations to the lucky winners.

The Baptist Church service was also held recently with Sandra Allen of Abernethy leading the service, assisted by Mary Baber. Pianist was Judy Hershmillier.

United Church celebrates 100th

The Fort Qu'Appelle St. Andrew's United Church was the scene of a gathering of 13 communities as the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada was celebrated on Sunday, June 1.

Rev. Jo Mader welcomed a capacity crowd of over 130 who were on hand from Grenfell, Indian Head, Edenwold, Edgeley, Qu'Appelle, McLean, Abernethy, Lemberg, Balcarres and Fort Qu'Appelle as well as other centers.

The meaningful service included historic hymns, as well as new melodies, choir anthems, family songs and solos. Each visiting community was given the opportunity to talk about their church history. The happy afternoon concluded with a luncheon in the nearby church hall, at which time everyone enjoyed a time

of visiting.

Golden Age Events

A quick reminder that coffee social times are held on Tuesdays at 9:30 (with some exceptions when the centre is rented) and Thursdays at 2:00.

June 10 – Coffee time 9:30, followed by two meetings, monthly meeting and AGM, followed by a lunch.

June 18 – Monthly Birthday Party at 2:30

June 19 and 20 – Golden Age Garage Sale. Anyone wanting to donate items, contact Bonnie 306-334-2725. Items must be clean, not chipped, and in working order. They can be

dropped off at the Seniors Centre, or contact Bonnie to make arrangements for pickup.

June 27 – Noon barbecue for the public to attend. Mark this date on your calendar

Around Balcarres

Sincere sympathy to Joanne Laslo and family on the recent passing of John Laslo.

Get ready for the town-wide Garage Sale set for Sat., June 21. There will be a town map available showing where the individual garage sales will be.

Mark your calendars to attend the Annual Qu'Appelle Valley Art Show and

Sale at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13. The raffle painting this year will be by Shelley Cochran.

A small black bear was

spotted on MacDonald Street in Balcarres. For those walking their dogs and out and about will have to have their eyes and ears on alert in the next little while.

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Doug Rue at 306-716-2671
saskfarms@shaw.ca
or visit www.sellyourfarmland.com

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APPOINTMENTS:
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Online: www.flexmt.ca



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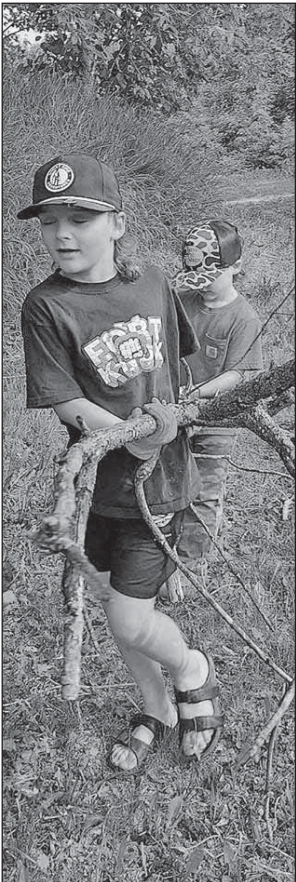
Beautification programs underway

Communities in Bloom, Fort Qu’Appelle



ALAN HUSTAKI GRASSLANDS NEWS

Planting and cleanup
Bloomer’s co-chair, Lynne Simmons digs into plant geraniums at the Four Corners while many youngsters helped with the cleanup at Kidsman Park.



By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Communities in Bloom completed their “big plant” recently and at the same time members of Fort Qu’Appelle District Lions Club did their annual cleanup of Kidsman Park.

Using chainsaws, pole saws, clippers and tractors the cleanup left the 15-acre park in the west end serene and inviting.

A community barbecue raised \$1,351 towards the cost of maintaining the

park which was created 40 years ago in what used to be a creek bed.

Communities in Bloom planted more than \$1,000 worth of flowers around town, including new red and white boxes outside the Dairy Queen.

Students from the elementary school were recruited to help plant vegetables for the Food Bank in keeping with this year’s theme of edible gardens.

The bloomers mission is to foster pride and improve the quality of life in the community.

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Monday to Saturday
8:00 to 4:30
Sunday Closed
Closed Statutory Holidays
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Asphalt.
Info: northvalleywaste.ca

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca

Sunday, June 15:
*9:00 a.m. Worship at St. Paul's
—
*9 a.m. Lay Service at Christ, Neud
*11 a.m. Worship at Trinity, Lemb
Monday, June 16:
7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Council
Thursday, June 19:
5:00 p.m. MACC Supper at
St. Henry's

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
Church Office 306-728-5764;
306-720-0589
Sunday, June 15:
No Worship Service

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, June 15:
11 a.m. Worship Service
with Rev. Brian Mee
Thursday, June 19:
Free Community Supper at
St. Henry's RC Church

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler

Sundays:
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
www.melvilleriverchurch.org
Facebook @melvilleriverchurch
*Recorded messages
posted online*

**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
June 15: 10:30 a.m.
Communion Service

**ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Saturday, June 14:
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Saturday, June 21:
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
Sunday during Summer Months:
Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
*Online services can be found at:
www.melvillebaptist.com*



Melville Churches Welcome You

**BETHANY EVANGELICAL
MISSIONARY CHURCH**
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001

Sunday, June 15:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
**No Services for month of July*

**ST. HENRY'S ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
729 Main St. - Office
Ph. 306-728-5702
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305
111 - 8th Ave. W.
Father Melchor Samonte

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com

Sunday, June 15:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
*Church of the Lutheran Hour
heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton*

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

**NEW LIFE
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Worship Service ~ 10:30 a.m.
Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Group - 7 p.m.
Rev. Dr. James R. Graham

**ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Saturday, June 14:
5:00 p.m. Mass Service

**ST. MARY'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Sunday, June 15:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Father's Day and Trinity Sunday
w/The Rev. Alex Campbell

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, WAPELLA**
Sunday, June 15:
No Service

**WHITEWOOD
UNITED CHURCH**
**No Services until September*

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

**ST. ANDREW'S
UNITED CHURCH**
801 Buxton St. - Indian Head, SK
306-695-3838
Sunday Services 11 a.m.
*Family Play Group -
Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
*Living with Cancer Support Group
2nd Tuesday of the Month

Kipling Churches Welcome You

**KIPLING CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
417 3rd Street South
Office: 306-736-8268

Sunday Services 10 a.m.
email: pipestoneparish@sasktel.net

KIPLING UNITED CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave. — 306-736-2237
email: kwpc@sasktel.net
**Services Held 1st and 3rd Sundays
at 9:30 a.m. Minister will vary**

KIPLING PEOPLE'S CHURCH
701 3rd Street - 306-736-8992
Website: kiplingpeopleschurch.com
Pastors: Kevin & Merodee Hassler
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship and
Children's Ministry

**ST. ANNE ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Sunday, June 15:
Lay Service 11:00 a.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
400 3rd St. South, Kipling
306-736-2447, Doris
306-424-2604, George
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

**BEKEVAR
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
102 Nelson Ave.
(in Kipling United Church)
Sunday Worship
in person 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Devon Pattimore
Lay Person/Service Leader
306-736-2479
bkbernat@gmail.com

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH
309 3rd. St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net

Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Coffee with Pastor
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu’Appelle Churches Welcome You

 **VALLEY ALLIANCE
CHURCH** Fort Qu’Appelle
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.
*Service is also available on YouTube
and will be livestreamed*
306-900-0600
Fort Qu’Appelle – valleyalliance.ca

**ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH**
 **Sunday Worship 11 a.m.**

202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-6213
Hall Contact - 306-331-6720

**ST. ANDREW'S
UNITED CHURCH**
194 Bay St., Fort Qu’Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
Sunday School & Service 10:30
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family fellowship. Facebook Live.*

Blooming Communities Battle: Community Klean-Up next week

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

There’s a quiet kind of beauty about a small town.

Take a drive through small communities such as Kipling, Kennedy, Windthorst or Glenavon and you are apt to see carefully tended public spaces that give welcome and invite you to stay a while.

Next week, a friendly competition between these four communities will encourage residents to come together and demonstrate their community spirit by giving some extra care and attention to cleaning and tending their streets and public spaces.

The community that shows the most improvement and effort will claim bragging rights and be awarded a plaque that will be displayed in the Town/Village Office for a year.

Kipling Mayor Pat Jackson says that the idea for the Blooming Communities Battle Community Klean-up grew out of a longstanding annual tradition involving several other small towns in our area.

“At least 25 years ago, the communities of Manor, Kisbey and Arcola began a friendly competition like this that they called the MAK Attack. Residents got together to clean and beautify their streets and public spaces. Then, a few years ago, Stoughton contacted the other three communities and asked if they could take part. So, this compe-

tition along Highway #13 has become the SMAK Attack.

“Last June, the event was being hosted by Kisbey and I was asked to come down and be a judge. So, I did. The three of us who were judges travelled to each community and stopped at the town/village office to ask the administrators what had been done to promote this competition in the community. Then, we drove around the community and filled out the rating scale that we had.

“After that, we met back in Kisbey, had a really nice lunch, gave our report on what we had seen, and the winning community was named. It really was a very low-key and inexpensive event.

“But the people in those communities really got into the spirit of it and showed how much pride they had in their town.

“At our July council meeting last year, I presented the idea of having a similar competition between Kipling and some of our neighboring communities along the #48 Highway.

“Council at that time thought it was a great idea, and when I presented it again to the current Council earlier this year, they were supportive as well.

“So, I went to talk with the Councils and Administrators in Kennedy, Windthorst and Glenavon, and each of those communities decided to come on board.”

Kipling will host the Blooming Communities Battle Community Klean-Up on Thursday, June 19, and residents in all communities are invited to get together and ensure that their hometown looks its best.

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Obituary Alastair William Brennan

Nov. 5, 1935 – May 31, 2025

Alastair William Brennan of Regina, Sask. passed away on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at the age of 89 years.

Alastair William Brennan was born on Nov. 5, 1935 to James and Mary (Yates) Brennan in Eskdale District, Saskatchewan. He attended Eskdale School for Grades 1-8 and completed Grade 9 by correspondence. In 1953 he moved to Ituna to live with his sister Lillian and her husband Donald Mason to attend high school. During summers he worked for Mason Brother's Construction, learning road building and land clearing. From 1955 to 1960 he worked in: Alberta's coal mines, a construction company building the #1 highway through Banff, Alta. and a zinc mine in Flin Flon, Man. He returned to Ituna, Sask. in 1960 and rejoined Mason Brother's and in 1965 he co-founded Potash Services Construction along with two partners.

On Aug. 31, 1963 Alastair married Doreen Bruce from the Garnet District. They lived in Kelliher until 1967, then moved to Colonsay while working at the Central Canada Potash Mine. After a short stint in Esterhazy they returned to Ituna in 1969. In 1991, after Potash Services Construction was sold, Alastair worked on a farm for a couple of years, then joined the Ituna Co-op in 1993 where he stayed for 11 years. He retired in 2004, though he was occasionally called back to help. Alastair and Doreen raised a family of four children, David, Leann, Carole and Allan.

Alastair was predeceased by his loving wife Doreen in 2024; his parents James and Mary Brennan; his mother and father-in-law George and Esther Bruce; son-in-law Wayne Hubick; siblings Lillian, Richard, Phyllis, Ruth, Keith and Danny; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is survived by his loving children: David (Marcie), Leann (Jayson), Carole (Shannon) and Allan; seven grandchildren: Kimberly (Brendan), Ryan (Miranda), Kyle (Ashley) Jade (Avery), Haley (Travis), Tyler (Carmen) and Logan (Hailey); nine great-grandchildren: Aden, Syllas, Roman, Callum, Renley, Cecilia, Ivy, Presley and Wesley; his brother Dale (Joyce); sister-in-law Audrey; brothers-in-law Gordon (Marcia) and Gerald (Bev); and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Alastair loved spending time with family and friends and was always ready to lend a hand. He enjoyed coffee at the local café, biking with his grandchildren and tending to his large garden. A devoted Toronto Blue Jays fan, he could often be found watching games, reading the paper or relaxing in his yard. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A funeral service for Alastair was held on Friday, June 6, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in St. Andrew's United Church, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., officiated by Rev. Jo Mader. A private family interment will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



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Obituary Elsie Katherine Kattler

(nee Raaf)

April 14, 1934 – June 6, 2025

Ernst and Mary Raaf welcomed Elsie Katherine as their second child on April 14, 1934. Born in Southey, SK, Elsie grew up with siblings Ann and Rudy.

Elsie recalled losing her Dad at a young age. She was only 12 years old and remembered staying strong for her Mum. After her Dad passed, the family moved from Cupar to Wapella and started a new life, which proved to be extremely hard for them all.

She was proud of her strong, loving family. She was very thankful for the love and support she received from her children Debra, Kevin, Karla and Ronda.

Elsie expressed that her fondest memories included meeting Ron and their marriage of 39 years. Although Ron was the strong financial supporter of the family, Elsie worked tirelessly as a farm wife, caring for the four children and tending to chores and cooking endless delicious meals. She stated that these were happy times and, although at times challenging, the kids were great!

Elsie said her greatest joy was becoming a grandmother and then a great-grandmother. She thoroughly enjoyed all the great times they had together.

Elsie left a note that read: All the kids are very special and were lots of fun to be with. I believe that is what has kept me going to this special age! Thanks kids for all you have done for me over these special years! Love you all!!!

Elsie left this world on Friday, June 6, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

She leaves a legacy of loving memories with daughter Debra (Ray) and their children Stuart (Jenna) and Patrick and their grandchildren: Wyatt, Everett and Sarah; her son Kevin (Karol) and their children Joel (Jacquie), Jenny (Ryan), Jenelle (Kris), Ashleigh (Brendon), Mitchell, Storm (Michael), Tahni (Chris) and their grandchildren: Rayna, Liam, Kase, Hunter, Isabelle, Sloan, Rilee-Rae, Nova, Tucker, Macie and Demi; her daughter Karla (Rob) and their children David (DeaElle) and Kimberley (Curtis) and their grandchildren: Bayden, Carter, Dexin and Brody; her daughter Ronda (Tim) and their child Amanda and their grandchildren: Annabelle, Lily, Asher, Adalee and Evee.

The entire family would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Sam, who spent many years providing healthcare for Elsie. We are very thankful for the kindness and compassion that he showed to Mom as well as guidance to the family as we said our final goodbyes. The family would also like to thank the staff of the Indian Head Union Hospital for the wonderful compassionate care that Elsie received, and the thoughtfulness expressed to the family during this difficult time.

A private family graveside service was held in the Indian Head Cemetery on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Jo Mader officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Elsie, may be made to the Indian Head and District Hospital Foundation Inc., Box 1547, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0 or etransfer to emailhospitalfoundation@gmail.com or Hayes Haven Personal Care Home, Box 1090, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Obituary William David Peake

April 24, 1951 – May 27, 2025

We say goodbye to a kind, honest man who lived a life full of precious and very meaningful friendships. A man known as husband, dad, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, lifelong friend, one of 'The Guys', and Captain Peake.

Throughout his working career he held various positions in finance and customer service with the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada. Bill contributed a lifetime of community service, which included many years with the Downtowners Optimist Club of Regina and as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces in the Air Cadet Program of Canada, as well as the Royal Canadian Legion.

He served as Captain in Air Cadets for Regina 703 Squadron and Indian Head 691 Hawk Squadron. He loved being involved with the program for over 25 years and truly enjoyed working with so many wonderful young people. Being an avid military history enthusiast, a very meaningful experience was a trip through Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France visiting sites of military significance with senior cadets from the 691 Squadron. Bill received many honours and awards for significant service including: the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD), Saskatchewan Centennial Medal for significant community contributions, Royal Canadian Legion Canadian 150th Anniversary medal, and the Royal Canadian Legion Anniversary 90th medal.

Bill and Donna had many terrific adventures and celebrations with his large extended family who adored him. He delighted in the many trips to the Rockies and travelling to interesting places in our world.

Bill was born, raised and educated in Regina. He was predeceased by his parents John "Jack" and Betty; and his sister Janice.

Bill will be greatly missed by his loyal and caring wife of 35 years, Donna; cherished daughter Kathryn; his devoted and supportive twin brother Bart; sister-in-law Gail; as well as a large extended family of nephews, nieces and cousins who adored him. We all have special memories of Bill which are tucked in our hearts until we meet again.

The family extends sincere appreciation for the outstanding care and service from the entire teams at the Critical Care Unit at Regina General Hospital and the Pasqua Hospital Palliative Care Unit.

An event of remembrance will be held at a later date and a notification will be published.



Memoriam



1925 Herb Hauser 2015

Dear Dad,
Ten years now, you're gone from us,
But the memories we made
with you will always remain.
And in our hearts is a special corner
That we keep just for you.
Missing you
—Love Brenda, Janice, Keith and our families.

Memoriam



REDENBACH – In loving memory of George who left us June 18, 2014. You always had a smile to share Time to give and time to care, A loving nature, kind and true Forever, the way we'll remember you.
—Forever loved and on our minds, Marilyn and family.



SCHMIDT – Henry, May 28, 1983; and Meta (Winnie), June 16, 2009. In loving memory of our dear parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near Still loved, still missed and very dear. Gone yet not forgotten Although we are apart, Your spirit lives within us Forever in our hearts.
—Lovingly remembered by the family

Services

Indian Head Library
OPEN HOURS

TUESDAY

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

1 - 4 p.m.; 5 - 8 p.m.

THURSDAY - *New Hours*

1 - 4 p.m.; 5 - 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CLOSED Monday and Sunday

Phone: 306-695-3922

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Obituary Deadline

Tuesdays 12 Noon

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Email: classifieds@grasslandsnews.ca

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FOR RENT – 2 bedroom apartment in Melville. Equipped with fridge, stove, AC, off-suite storage, plug-in parking and free laundry. **306-730-7447** for inquiries. M3-4p

FOR RENT – 1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Squire’s Court, Melville. Appliances included. Phone Steve at 306-730-7242. M2-8p

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\$ Paying Cash \$

PAYING CASH for all firearms; one or many. Includes estates and collections. Executors welcome. Once and done. Please call 306-539-2543. M46-4c

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Estate of **Mary Lenora Arbeau**, late of Ituna, Sask., deceased.
All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 24th day of June, 2025.
KREKLEWICH & CHAMBERS
Barristers & Solicitors
147 Third Avenue East
P.O. Box 2000
Melville, SK S0A 2P0
Solicitors for the Estate.

Auction Sale June 21

Huge Family Run ESTATE SALE Saturday, June 21

36 Willow Crescent
Fort Qu’Appelle, SK

*Registration 8:30 a.m.
*Auction 10:00 a.m.
until everything is sold
CASH ONLY ACCEPTED

There will be a large amount of shop, yard and garden tools. Includes various hand, electric and gas options. Numerous antiques and collectibles, along with a variety of household items.
Lunch and refreshments will be available.Free coffee provided on site.Washroom available.

NOTE: If unable to proceed due to inclement weather, it will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2025. Same starting times will apply

Province Wide

FORAGE SEED FOR SALE: Organic & conventional: Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover, Smooth Brome, Meadow Brome, Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy, etc. Star City, SK. Birch Rose Acres Ltd. 306-921-9942.

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Auction June 25

FARM AUCTION
for **ED STEINKE**
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
10 a.m.
WAPELLA, SK
2 miles East (TWP152) of Bill Board sign at Wapella. Turn at RR 13331, 2 miles North, 1/2 mile East
Includes: TRACTORS: JD 8440; JD 4440; JD 4020; JD 3020 c/w 148 loader, bucket, grapple; Ford 8N (2); Oliver 88. **EQUIPMENT:** JD 7720 Titan 11 combine; JD 7721 pull type; JD 6601 pull type (6) mostly for parts; Versatile 4400 hydro 24 ft. swather; Versatile 400 swathers (3); several deep tillages with harrow bars; Melroe 6 ft. furrow plow; Vermeer balers, bale feeders, cattle chute, oilfield pipe, 41ft. Sakundiak 7 in. auger. **TRUCKS:** GMC 5500; GMC 6000; 2008 Siverado 4x4 half ton; 1972 GMC half ton; 1962 Valiant car. **SHOP:** large assortment wrenches/sockets; welder/compressor/grinder. **HOUSEHOLD:** Fridge/stove/freezer; antique dresser/flour bin/bed; misc household.
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- A professional and have a clear driving record

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Please call 204 773 3786
or send your resume to: admin@braendlebrucefs.ca



Thank you for applying

www.braendlebrucefs.ca

Obituary Deadline

Tuesdays 12 Noon



Royal Canadian Legion

Indian Head Branch No. 114

General Meeting 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m.

President - Matt Smith
Contact Don Ford 306-530-3222 and Myrna Scott 306-727-3733

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TOWN OF BALCARRES

PUBLIC WORKS LABOURER FULL-TIME POSITION

Wage: \$25/hr or based on experience
Start Date: Immediately

The Town of Balcarres invites applicants for the position of Public Works Laborer, available immediately. This full-time permanent position will assist the public works team in providing services to the Town of 600+ residents for transportation, utility distribution, infrastructure maintenance, and seasonal employees during assigned hours.

Some of your tasks might include:

- Manual labor, mostly outdoors
- Street maintenance, including but not limited to gravelling, grading, patching, crack sealing, painting street lines, hydrants, and curbs, oiling, snow removal, sanding, sweeping streets, and de-icing walks
- Traffic Control, including but not limited to the maintenance of street signs, traffic control signs and traffic signals
- Drainage, including but on limited to clearing debris and blockages from catch basins, and removing weeds and debris from ditches.
- Maintain sewage lagoon, pumphouse and lift stations in the sewage system.
- Maintain curb stops, valves and fire hydrants in co-operation with the Fire Department and Water Treatment Plant
- Sidewalk repairs
- Park lot and Town yard maintenance.

Minimum Qualifications:
Valid Class 5 Drivers License or above
High school diploma or equivalent
Experience operating powered mobile equipment
Criminal Record check and driving abstract will be required

Preference will be given to applicants with:
Certification in Water Treatment and Distribution, Wastewater Collection and Treatment (or willingness to become certified)
Certification on heavy equipment an asset
Confined space training, ground disturbance training
Certification in Power Mobile Equipment would be as asset
Pesticide Application License (or willingness to become licensed)
Local residency or willingness to relocate

Candidates will have good public relations and communication skills as well as excellent time management skills. Be a strong team leader, and have the ability to work independently or as part of a team.

The Town of Balcarres has an excellent benefits and pension package.

Applicants should submit a detailed resume, complete with a cover letter including three work references no later than Friday June 20, 2025.

To apply, please send resumes to the Town of Balcarres:
Mail - Town of Balcarres, P.O. Box 130, 209 Main Street, Balcarres, SK , S0G 0C0
Fax – 306-334-2907, **Email** – balcarrestown@sasktel.net

*Only those applicants being considered will be notified.
If you have any questions contact the Town Office at 306-334-2566.*

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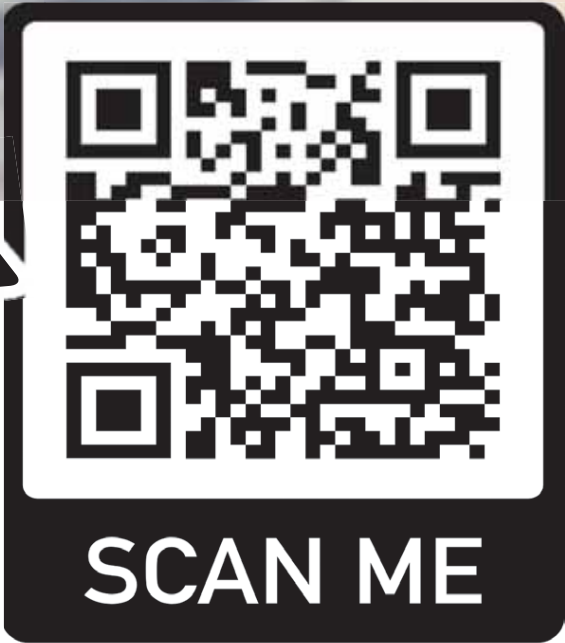


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